To: Palo Alto Park and Recreation Commission, Peter Jensen, Rob DeGeus  

From: Ryan Mottau and Ellie Fiore, MIG  

Re: Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan Initial Survey Summary  

Date: March 17, 2015  

Initial Summary  

Per the original scope, MIG developed a Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan Survey to be administered using the City’s subscription to the Vovici internet survey tool. The survey instrument was developed with extensive input from the survey ad hoc committee and the full Park and Recreation Commission prior to release in November 2014. The survey was distributed broadly to citizens, employees and visitors in Palo Alto through December 9. The open, online access provided by Vovici allows for the broadest possible reach and collects the largest set of responses. Thanks to the efforts of the City and the PRC in getting the word out, this survey ended with 1164 responses. For comparison purposes, a similarly-scaled phone survey would have collected approximately 400 responses and would not have covered as many topics or provided as many opportunities for open-ended responses. Typical questions expressed about online surveys include data quality control and representation, both of which are addressed in this memo.  

The attached summary is provided for preliminary review of the initial summary of responses. This memo highlights the quality control practices, the quota sampling criteria for balancing representation in the results and options for further analysis.  

Total Response and Quality Control  

The results presented in the attached summary include the full set of 1,164 responses which have been checked for duplicates and evidence of any intentional multiple responses using the time/date stamp and originating IP address. With the exception of a limited number of duplicate entries (probably created by pressing the submit button more than once) which were removed, there was no evidence of any multiple entries.
**Proposed Quota Sampling**

Early on in the process, as we determined the distribution methods for advertising a Vovici-based survey of the community, MIG indicated that with enough responses, a representative sample could be derived from within the response set using quota sampling. This methodology allows a sample to be drawn from the available data that is proportional to the population. The key is to use known, mutually exclusive categories of respondents (such as age, race or the presence of children in the household) to determine a set of quotas for responses. These quotas can be applied to a sampling process (working within the universe of available responses) to balance the results for critical perspectives.

The selection of the criteria for quota sampling needs to balance the available results as well as the perspectives that are most important to ensure representation in the sample. The MIG team proposes the following criteria for quota sampling, aligning with ACS:

- 65% White/Caucasian
- 2.7% African American
- 26% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 8% Hispanic
- 35% households with children under 18;
- 65% without children under 18

A quota based sample of 400 responses from the available data will be able to closely match the overall Palo Alto population on these key features.

Due to the low number of respondents in age groups under 35, MIG recommends addressing age representation separately with a combination of additional (focus group based) outreach to younger residents. This outreach will identify ideas and issues unique to the younger population to supplement the information in this survey.

**Request from the PRC**

At the March PRC meeting, MIG will be presenting the key findings identified from this complete set of results and requests the following:

- Identification of key findings from your perspective
- Feedback on proposed quota based sampling process
COMMUNITY SURVEY INITIAL SUMMARY

As part of the Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan’s multi-layered community engagement strategy, the planning team developed and distributed an online survey in November 2014. The survey instrument (attached to this summary) was refined in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC). The 43-question survey was designed to gain insight into the community’s priorities for its park and recreation system. The question design allowed the respondents to select the approaches they felt were most important or most appropriate for Palo Alto. The options were generated from prior analysis of the system and community outreach. City staff and the PRC’s effective distribution of the survey resulted in 1,164 survey participants—an excellent response rate for an online survey. Nearly three times as many participants responded to this survey as participate in a typical phone survey.

Following is a summary of the survey organized by the sections of the survey: Preserves, Natural Features and Sustainability, Parks and Facilities, Recreation Center and Programs, Use of Limited Resources, Meeting Community Needs, Interpretation and Communications. The table of contents for this document is presented below.

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<th>Page</th>
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<td>Parks and Facilities</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Center and Programs</td>
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<td>Meeting Community Needs</td>
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<td>Interpretation and Communications</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Ended Responses</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey Respondents At-a-Glance

Respondents included a mix of Palo Alto residents, employees, business owners and visitors (see Table 1), with nearly all respondents indicating that they live in Palo Alto (see Graph 1). Compared to citywide demographics, as reported in the 2009-2013 American Community Survey\(^1\) 5-Year estimates, the survey was able to capture results from all major race/ethnicity categories (see Table 2). The demographic makeup of the complete set of results does not match the race/ethnicity profile of the community. However, a proposed quota based sampling method could balance the representation in a sub-sample of these results. Other identifying responses such as gender (Table 3), children in the household (Tables 4 and 5), age (Table 6) and area of the city (Table 7) can also be used to explore differences in the responses to specific questions.

Table 1: Do you live or work in Palo Alto? (Select all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Live in Palo Alto</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work in Palo Alto</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live in a nearby community</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own a business in Palo Alto</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 1: Respondents indicating they live in Palo Alto

\(^1\) The American Community Survey, or ACS, is a Census Bureau survey conducted with a smaller sample size and set of questions than the decennial Census. The ACS provides more frequent data to communities.
### Table 2: Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Survey Count</th>
<th>Survey Percentage</th>
<th>ACS 2009-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White/Caucasian</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td><strong>1164</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: respondents were allowed to select all that apply for responses to where they live/work and their ethnicity.

*Hispanic identity is asked separately in the American Community Survey

### Table 3: Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Answer</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td><strong>1164</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4: Do you have children/youth in your household? Select all that apply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, ages 0-5</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, ages 6-12</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, ages 13-18</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, ages 19 and up</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td><strong>1164</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5: Presence of children/youth in the household

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Survey Percentage</th>
<th>ACS 2009-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes (any age group)</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td><strong>1164</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 6: What is your age?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>ACS 2009-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 75</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Respondents</strong></td>
<td><strong>1164</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 7: If you live in Palo Alto, which neighborhood do you reside in? Results summarized by location north or south of Oregon Expressway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respondents in Neighborhoods North of Oregon Expressway</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondents in Neighborhoods South of Oregon Expressway</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure/No Answer</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Themes & Key Findings

The following represents the highest level summary of themes (which emerged across multiple questions) as well as key findings which provide actionable data on topics that are important to the planning process.

Respondents value, support and appreciate their parks system. They recognize that it is a high-quality system and they have ideas for how it could be even better. Overall, they expressed support for:

- Integrating nature throughout the park and recreation system, supported by responses to all questions in the Preserves, Natural Features and Sustainability section of the survey.
- Opportunities for fitness and health in parks (providing opportunities such as loop trails and paths) and programming (including fitness classes, sports, and senior wellness), see Graphs 7, 9 and 10.
- Priority for local needs and access, see Graphs 13, 14, 16.
- Expanding and improving the bicycle and pedestrian network to and within parks, see Graphs 7 and 15.
- Improvements to the existing park and recreation system with enhancements to neighborhood parks throughout the city (the top ranked choice of 5 major directions in Graph 16 with over 70% ranking it #1 or #2).
- Enhancing sustainability in the Parks system, see Graph 2, 4 and 22.
- Centralized and electronic communications from the City, supported by the final set of questions in Graph 23.

The following emerged as strong findings on key issues:

- Water conservation and recycling measures are seen as very appropriate, including: expanding recycled water use (73%), removing grass turf where not needed for sports (61%) and installing stormwater absorbing features (77%).
- There is strong support for improved and additional restrooms in the parks. 81% of respondents indicated that restrooms are important-very important additions or improvements to existing parks.
• Other comfort and convenience features are also important. 72% of respondents indicated drinking fountains and faucets are important to add/enhance, along with places to sit (62%), shade (61%).
• Respondents agree that improvements to dog facilities are needed; preferences for how this is done vary largely based on dog ownership. Improving existing dog parks was indicated as most appropriate with 59%; additionally 43% of respondents think it is not appropriate to do nothing (add no additional dog parks in Palo Alto).
• Preference for natural turf over artificial turf athletic fields. 43% indicate it is not appropriate to use artificial turf to reduce water use and expand playing time; 50% indicate it is very appropriate to avoid artificial turf in favor of natural grass.
• Extending hours for sports fields was strongly supported (54% support, 19% oppose) as a management strategy, along with confirmation of many of the elements of the existing policy.
• Gym based sports were the most important recreation program addition or enhancement with 50% indicating it is important or very important.
• All existing types of activities/users at the Cubberley Community Center are seen as important by at least 30% of the respondents (with the highest, outdoor sports, at 60%). Accommodating the variety of activities will require greater flexibility in the facility.

Preserves, Natural Features and Sustainability
This section of the survey invited survey participants to indicate their preferences for enhancing the ecological functions and sustainable management of Palo Alto’s parks.

Key Findings

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
Respondents strongly value wildlife habitat enhancement, above all other options for protecting the City’s natural areas, such as parks and open space preserves (see Graph 2). Respondents indicated that the three most important options for achieving the goal of protecting natural areas are:

1. Plant more ecologically appropriate trees in parks that support habitat (74% indicated as important or very important)
2. Support wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity (70% indicated as important or very important)
3. Incorporate bird- and butterfly-friendly plants in our neighborhood parks and streetscapes (66% indicated as important or very important)

Less than 5% of respondents indicated the above approaches to habitat enhancements are not important.
Connecting People With Nature
Respondents indicated that the three most appropriate options for connecting people with nature are:
1. Natural paths (82% indicated as appropriate or very appropriate). This preference aligns with a general support for trails shown throughout the survey.
2. Nature play (65% indicated as appropriate or very appropriate)
3. Environmental and educational opportunities such as signage or enhanced interpretive centers (55% indicated as appropriate or very appropriate)

Environmentally Sustainable Policies and Practices
Water recycling and stormwater management systems were most favored by respondents. Respondents indicated that the three most important options for creating a more environmentally sustainable park system in Palo Alto are:
1. Features that allow soils to absorb rain and reduce stormwater runoff (77% indicated appropriate or very appropriate)
2. Expand the use of recycled water for irrigation (73% indicated it is appropriate or very appropriate)
3. Removing grass turf where not needed for sports to reduce water use and replacing with other features including native plants (61% consider appropriate or very appropriate)

Other
Other notable findings from the Preserves, Natural Features and Sustainability section of the survey include the following:
- Edible plants
  Respondents are more supportive of community gardens than they are of incorporating edible plants and herbs into the landscape.
    - 47% indicated it was appropriate or very appropriate to designate more space for community gardens (see Graph 4)
    - 11% indicated incorporating edible plants is important and 30% believed it is not important (see Graph 2)
- Artificial Turf
  - Survey respondents were not generally in favor of using artificial turf sports fields as a water conservation strategy in Palo Alto’s park system (see Graph 4)
Graph 2: How important are these options for achieving the goal of protecting City's natural areas such as parks and open space preserves?

- Incorporating bird- and butterfly-friendly...
- Re-naturalizing creek banks in parks
- Planting more ecologically appropriate trees...
- Replacing manicured spaces, such as mowed...
- Incorporating edible plants such as fruit and...
- Supporting wildlife corridors and habitat...
- Removing invasive plant species
- Other (please specify below)

Graph 3: How appropriate are these ideas for connecting people to nature at one of Palo Alto's open spaces?

- Event pavilion or large covered picnic areas
- Paved paths (e.g. asphalt, concrete)
- Natural paths (e.g. dirt, decomposed granite, base rock)
- Nature play (e.g. spaces for kids to dig in dirt, climb logs and play in water)
- Open space for large group activities such as Frisbee or other pickup games
- Environmental and educational opportunities such as signage or enhanced interpretive...
Graph 4: How appropriate are these policies and practices to create a more environmentally sustainable park system in Palo Alto?

### Parks and Facilities

The Parks and Facilities section of the survey asked participants to rank new or additional features to Palo Alto’s park system. The results reveal some clear preferences for among respondents.

### Key Findings

**Re-Imagining Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Respondents did not voice remarkably strong support for any one option as being especially appropriate for re-imagining parks and recreation facilities in Palo Alto (see Graph 5).

Respondents indicated the most support for:

1. Small-scale features that add new activities to parks such as badminton courts, ping pong courts/tables or bocce ball (43% indicated small as appropriate or very appropriate)

More than 250 survey participants also included their own ideas for new features. Respondents used this opportunity to express support for many features that are also addressed elsewhere in this survey, from restrooms to off-leash areas for dogs. Respondents also indicated support for additional skate park facilities. While these individual comments are useful in generating ideas, they are not numerous enough to set direction by.
Make Parks More Comfortable And Convenient

There were clear preferences for additions and improvements to make parks more comfortable and convenient (see Graph 6). Respondents indicated that the three most important additions and improvements are:

1. Restrooms (81% indicated as important or very important, with 61% of those respondents indicating restrooms are very important)
2. Drinking fountains (62% indicated as important or very important)
3. More benches and places to sit (62% indicated as important or very important)

Respondents did not think Wi-Fi in the parks was especially important, with 45% of respondents indicating that it was not important to making the parks more comfortable and convenient (see Graph 6).

Enhancing Health and Well-Being Of Community Members

Responses revealed a preference for paths over exercise equipment and classes (see Graph 7). Respondents indicated that the three most important additions or improvements are:

1. Bicycle and pedestrian connections to parks (80% indicated as important or very important)
2. Loop paths (75% indicated as important or very important)
3. Quiet areas for relaxation (69% indicated as important or very important)

Exercise-specific programming, including exercise equipment and classes, did not receive as much support; with about 35% of respondents indicating they were not appropriate or somewhat appropriate (see Graph 7).

Other

Other notable findings from the Parks and Facilities section of the survey include the following:

- Public Transit
  Public transit was ranked as important or very important by 40% of respondents. It is important to note that some of the 15% of respondents who indicated that public transit is very important may rely on public transit to access parks.

- Dog Parks
  More non-dog owners (662) than dog owners (421) participated in the survey. Both dog owners and non-dog owners agree there is a need to improve existing dog parks however they do not agree on what those improvements should look like (see Graph 8).
    - Dog owners were very supportive of all ideas to expand recreation with dogs.
    - The only option generally agreed upon by both dog owners and non-dog owners is to improve the existing dog parks.
o Additional dedicated off-leash dog areas are supported by dog owners (66% indicated they are appropriate or very appropriate) while only 30% of non-dog owners indicated additional off-leash dog areas are appropriate or very appropriate.

o Sharing other spaces for off-leash dog recreation was slightly negatively viewed, (48% negative and 35% positive for non fenced areas and 44% negative to 36% positive in existing fenced areas)

- Concessions
  The majority of respondents indicated that the addition of food and beverage services to Palo Alto’s parks is not appropriate as a new park feature, nor is food important to making the parks more comfortable and convenient (see Graphs 5 and 6).

Graph 5: How appropriate are the following features in Palo Alto, given the opportunity by the long-range Master Plan to re-imagine parks and recreation facilities?
Graph 6: How important are these additions/improvements to existing park facilities to make park visits more comfortable and convenient?

Graph 7: How appropriate are these additions/improvements to existing park and recreation system in Palo Alto to achieve the goal of enhancing health and well-being of community members?
**Graph 8: How should the City accommodate the dog owning community in Palo Alto parks?**

![Graph showing different options for accommodating dog owning community in Palo Alto parks]

**Recreation Centers and Programs**

Respondents were asked to indicate the importance of various categories of recreation programs and features for Palo Alto.

**Key Findings**

**Enhancement and addition of recreation programs**

Recreation program questions addressed specific needs and desires from the community and as a result there is not broad support for any one type of programming (See graph 9). Respondents indicated the three most important enhancements or improvements are:

1. Gym-based sports (50% indicated important or very important)
2. Social events and spaces (40% indicated are important or very important)
3. Fitness classes and yoga classes (40% indicated important or very important)

There is a low level of support for fitness equipment/weight rooms.

- Only 25% of respondents indicated that fitness equipment/weight rooms are very or extremely appropriate. This response aligns with participants’ low level of support for outdoor exercise equipment (see graph 7).

**Cubberley Community Center**

The survey asked people to specifically consider the services offered at Cubberley Community Center (see Graph 10). Responses indicate that people consider Cubberley to primarily be a sports and wellness center.
Respondents indicated the three most important activities provided at the Cubberley Community Center are:

1. Outdoor sports at Cubberley (59% indicated as important or very important)
2. Indoor sports and health programs (51% indicated as important or very important)
3. Rooms and available to rent and Senior Wellness including Stroke and Cardiovascular Programs (49% indicated both of these services as important or very important)

**Events**

Fifty percent of respondents indicated that the City should strike a balance between large and small events, rather than focusing on one scale or the other. There was also notable support (20%) for more frequent, smaller events, rotating around neighborhood and downtown parks (see Graph 11).

**Aquatic Enhancements**

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of various enhancements for Palo Alto’s aquatic options (see Graph 12). Respondents indicated that the three most important enhancements to Palo Alto’s aquatic options are:

1. More opportunities for recreational swimming (50% indicated important or very important)
2. Improvements to existing Rinconada pools and supporting facilities (47% indicated important or very important)
3. An additional public pool elsewhere in Palo Alto (43% indicated important or very important)

Enhanced competitive swimming received the least support with only 16% of respondents indicating that it is important or very important.

**Serving A Variety Of Populations**

The survey asked respondents to share their ideas for activities or programs that would better serve a variety of populations in the community, including a range of age groups, lower income residents, people with disabilities, or specific ethnic or linguistic groups. The list of ideas is attached for reference.
Graph 9: How important is the enhancement/addition of the following recreation programs and features in Palo Alto

- Gym-based sports and activities (basketball, volleyball, badminton, etc.)
- Fitness classes (yoga, zumba, crossfit, etc.)
- Social events/spaces (community meals, dances, game rooms, etc.)
- Martial arts
- Clubs and classes organized around particular interests (robotics, book clubs, etc.)
- Fitness equipment/weight room
- Other (please specify below)

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

- 1 - Not important
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - Very important
- No answer

Graph 10: How important are the following types of activities to you that the Cubberley Community Center provides?

- Outdoor Sports
- Indoor Sports and Health Programs
- Senior Wellness including Stroke and Cardiovascular Programs
- Rooms available to rent for other activities
- Dance Studios
- Child Care
- Cubberley Artist Studio Program
- Education - Private Schools and Special Interest Classes
- Other (please specify below)

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

- 1 - Not important
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - Very important
- No answer
Graph 11: Select the choice that best represents the balance the City should strike between large and small events.

Graph 12: How important are the following enhancements to Palo Alto’s aquatic options?

- Additional lessons and aquatics programming
- Enhanced competitive swimming (e.g., more time available, better spectator seating, etc.)
- More opportunities for recreational swimming (less competitive, suitable for...
- Improvements to existing Rinconada pools and supporting facilities (changing rooms...)
- Improved social, gathering and observation space around the existing pool
- An additional public pool elsewhere in Palo Alto
- Water play (splash pad or interactive fountain) at more parks in the system
Using Limited Resources

Palo Alto's parks system includes a limited number of meeting rooms, campsites and other facilities available for rental or reservation. As a result, many users are competing for time and space.

Key Findings

Prioritizing Use Of Rentable And Reservable Facilities, Including Fields

The majority of respondents agree with the current policy of prioritizing facility availability for Palo Alto residents (see Graphs 13 and 14). Respondents were nearly evenly split in supporting or not supporting the current policy of prioritizing youth activities over adult activities. There was strong support for:

- Prioritizing the availability of meeting rooms, camp sites and other facilities available for rental or reservation for residents (80% of respondents support)
- The current policy of maximizing all fields for local Palo Alto based organized sports leagues (70% of respondents support)

There were low levels of support for:

- Equal availability of facilities for residents, corporate events, and local employees (18% support)
- Allowing more access for competitive teams from the entire region (13% support)

Enhancing Palo Alto’s Park System Within Geographical Constraints

Respondents were asked to consider various approaches to enhancing Palo Alto’s Park system given geographical limitations (see Graph 15). Respondents indicated that the three most appropriate enhancements are:

1. Enhancing the walking and biking experience as a way to enhance the parks and recreation system (74% indicated as appropriate or very appropriate). This preference for better pedestrian and bicycle facilities reinforces respondents’ strong support for bicycle and pedestrian connections to parks (see Graph 7).
2. Use right-of-ways, easements and other small publicly-owned properties for trails, parks or community gardens (66% indicated as appropriate or very appropriate)
3. Create multi-use spaces that enhance the opportunity for different activities on different days and times (56% indicated as appropriate or very appropriate)
Prioritizing Facilities/Park Spaces For Major Improvements

Respondents were asked to prioritize funding and staffing related to a variety of improvements and additions to Palo Alto’s park system (see Graph 16). The facilities/spaces that received the strongest support for investment and enhancement are:

- Enhancing neighborhood parks throughout the city (61% ranked as the first or second priority)
- Renovations to the Cubberley Community Center (37% ranked as the first or second priority)

Programming 10.5 Acres Near The Baylands Athletic Center

Survey participants responded to the facilities and spaces that they felt would be most appropriate for the additional land near Baylands (see Graph 17). The most popular responses were:

1. Natural area for hiking and bird watching (64% indicated as appropriate or very appropriate)
2. Sports field area (60% indicated as appropriate or very appropriate)

Forty-six percent of respondents indicated that community gardens or orchards are appropriate or very appropriate for the available Baylands land. This was a much higher level of support than the idea of incorporating fruits and herbs into open spaces (see Graph 2). This may indicate that respondents are not receptive to incorporating edibles into existing preserve spaces but are more receptive to incorporating them into newly designated parks spaces.

Graph 13: Given the limited meeting rooms, campsites and other facilities available for rental or reservation in Palo Alto, indicate whether you support the following strategies for prioritizing use of these facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>Don’t support</th>
<th>No answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority availability for residents</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Available on a first-come first-serve basis</td>
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<tr>
<td>More picnic areas and facilities in more of...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available to residents and non-profit...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prioritized for youth activities over adult...</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Equal availability for residents, corporate...</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Graph 14: Indicate whether you support, don’t support or are not sure about the statements below regarding how our sports fields should be managed.

- Maximize all fields for local Palo Alto based organized sports leagues (current policy)
- Include SOME unreserved field time for other uses including pick-up games, classes or...
- Create ways for new sports and informal groups to reserve field time
- Allow more access for competitive teams from the entire region
- Open for longer hours through additional lighting

Graph 15: How well do you think the following would work to enhance the park system in Palo Alto, given the geography constraints?

- Use right-of-ways, easements and other small ways, easements and other small...
- Actively pursue opportunities to acquire land...
- Create multi-use spaces that enhance the... Create multi-use spaces that enhance the...
- Create plazas and public spaces on the...
- Enhance the walking and biking experience...
- Concentrate organized sports play at select...
- Other (please specify below)
Graph 16: Which major improvements, facilities and additions to parks (all of which will require significant funding and staff time) should the City prioritize? Rank the types of projects below in order 1-6, with 1 being highest priority and 6 being lowest priority.

- Invest in enhancing and improving neighborhood parks across the city
- Expansion/renovation of the Rinconada Pool and facilities.
- Improvements to the Lucie Evans Baylands Interpretative Center and boardwalk.
- Improvements and renovation to the 7.7 acres recently added to Foothills Park (near Oak Grove...)
- Renovations to the Cubberley Community Center
- Other (please specify below)

Graph 17: What facilities or spaces would be appropriate for the additional 10.5 acres of land near the Baylands Athletic Center (designated for future recreational use)?

- Additional sports fields
- Dog park
- Gymnasium
- Pool
- Skatepark
- Community gardens or orchards
- Natural Area for hiking and bird...
- Other (please specify below)
Meeting Community Needs

Respondents were asked if the Palo Alto parks and recreation system is meeting their needs and what barriers to program participation and facility access exist.

Key Findings

Meeting User Needs
Respondents indicated that most of their needs are met (see Graph 18). Areas in which respondents indicated their needs are not as well met include:

- Community service volunteer opportunities (34% indicated all or most needs are met)
- Classes that offer diverse cultural perspectives (44% indicated that all or most needs are met)

Barriers To Participation In Programs, Classes And Use Of Recreation Facilities
Respondents also indicated that they do not face many limitations to their participation in programs and classes or use of recreation facilities (see Graph 19). The factors that respondents indicted are the most limiting are:

- The time of day classes are offered and facilities (38% of respondents indicated this makes it difficult or very difficult to participate)
- Overcrowded classes (19% indicated this makes it difficult or very difficult to participate)

Importance Of Universal Accessibility
Survey participants were asked how important it is that Palo Alto exceeds the legal minimums and strive for universal accessibility (see Graph 20).

- 43% indicated that it is very or extremely important
- 19% indicated it is not important or not very important.

Additional Funding For Facility Maintenance
Participants were asked to rate the importance of finding funding for maintenance and small repairs on a variety of facilities (see Graph 21). There was support for funding repairs of all of the listed facilities, with the most support for:

1. Playgrounds (61% indicated important or very important)
2. Trails and natural areas (56% indicated important or very important)
Graph 18: How well do you feel that the Palo Alto Parks and Recreation system (all of the parks, facilities, trails, preserves etc.) meets your needs in the following areas?

- Physical (facilities are accessible and offer activities that you are able to participate in…)
- Language (information, signage and classes are offered in your native language)
- Education (activities, facilities and classes that stimulate and enhance your…)
- Cultural (facilities and classes offer diverse cultural perspectives)
- Age (there are facilities and recreation opportunities that are appropriate for you…)
- Proximity to parks and recreation facilities close to where you spend your time…
- Community Service/Volunteer
- Other (please specify below)

Graph 19: What limits your participation in programs and classes or your use of recreation facilities?

- Cost of activity or class
- Time and days at which the activity is…
- Classes are full or over-crowded
- Travel distance is too great
- Walking and biking does not feel safe
- Public transit is unavailable or inconvenient
- The facilities or classes do not meet my…
- There is nothing offered in which I am…
Graph 20: How important is it that Palo Alto exceed the legal minimums and strive for universal accessibility?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremely</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 21: How important are additional dollars for the maintenance (cleaning, small repairs, etc.) to improve the following facilities?

Interpretation and Communications

Respondents were asked about the topics they are most interested in learning more about and their preferences for communications from the City.

Key Findings

Educational interpretation in the parks
Survey participants indicated the topics that are most important to learn about while visiting Palo Alto’s parks (see Graph 22). The following topics are considered the most important topics:
1. Natural habitats and how preservation, including restricted access in some cases, may benefit species (65% responded as important or very important)
2. Sustainable practices being used in parks such as water conservation, reduced waste and energy efficiency (58% responded as important or very important)

**City Communications**

Survey participants indicated their preferences for how they would like the City to communicate about parks, recreational, educational and cultural experiences. Respondents showed a clear preference for consolidated, electronic information (see Graph 23). The top three preferred forms of communication are:

1. One website that hosts all information about events, classes, camps and park news for all services in the City (77% prefer or very much prefer)
2. An e-catalog emailed with all seasonal events, classes, camps and park news (53% prefer or very much prefer)
3. One monthly newsletter with all recreational, educational and cultural experiences including updates and offerings (hard copy or email) (46% prefer or very much prefer)

Graph 22: How important are the following topics for you to learn about when visiting parks in Palo Alto?
Graph 23: How would you like to receive information about the variety of parks, recreational, educational and cultural experiences that the City of Palo Alto offers?

Open-Ended Reponses

Survey participants were given an opportunity to provide additional comments about the Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan. Nearly 400 individuals provided comments to this open-ended question. Responses were coded in order to identify trends and potential areas where participants might have ideas or concerns. Since many of the responses touched on multiple aspects of the Master Plan, the coding process generated 659 total observations. From these, 46 tags were identified based on multiple mentions (from 2 to 64) of a similar topic. These tags were summarized into eight categories that captured broader directions and included a larger number of responses. Graph 24 includes the full set of these categories and the percentage of responses included in each. Attached to this summary for reference are the counts of comments tagged and then categorized.

- Participants who expressed interest in improved opportunities for sports and activities such as increased pool hours and continued or enhanced support for existing sports leagues,
- Participants who supported expansion of or improvement to recreation and activity facilities, such as development of social gathering spaces (especially for youth and teens) and expansion of gardens, trails, dog parks and natural areas,
- Participants who commented on the exclusivity of Palo Alto parks, the 25 comments were basically split between those in favor of and those opposed to allowing more open access to non-residents, particularly at Foothills,
- Participants who preferred maintenance or reduction of existing amenities rather than expansion,
Participants who sought improved amenities in existing spaces, such as provision of seating, bathrooms, art, shade and security measures,

Participants who expressed general satisfaction with the City and parks or who were thankful for the opportunity to take part in the survey, and

Participants who provided general suggestions and comments that did not fit in other categories.

The comments largely reinforce the findings of the survey questions. The comments also include some constructive and specific ideas for improvements and additions to the system, which will be incorporated into the Plan’s program analysis and plan recommendation development. The following table and figure describe the prevalence of responses in each of the eight categories.

Comments about the quality of the survey

Graph 24: Prevalence of open-ended responses by category
The City of Palo Alto is preparing a Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan, which will guide city investments in parks and recreation for the next 10-20 years. This plan will consider spaces ranging from our neighborhood parks and community centers to our open space preserves, the ways we get to and from these places, and what we do when we’re there, whether it’s soccer practice, hiking, classes and camps or family picnics. This survey is part of the second phase of public input for this planning process. You may have already provided some ideas through our online map-based survey, in person at parks or farmers markets, or by attending a community workshop. We’ve collected a lot of great ideas over the past six months. Now we’d like your input, whether or not we’ve heard from you before. Your input will help prioritize potential improvements to the system and will indicate the programs, events and park features that are most important to the community.

This survey should take about 15 minutes to complete. Please answer these questions as they relate to you, and share with your friends and family members so they can provide their own input.

Your input will help the City prioritize potential improvements to the parks and recreation system by indicating what is most important to you. Thank you for your participation!

Si desea completar esta encuesta en Español, favor de llamar al 650-496-6918 o enviar su solicitud por correo electrónico: peter.jensen@cityofpaloalto.org.

**Demographics**

The following optional questions will help us understand who we are hearing from during this planning process.

1) Gender
   - ___ Female
   - ___ Male

2) What is your age
   - ___ Under 18
   - ___ 18-24
   - ___ 25-34
   - ___ 35-44
   - ___ 45-54
   - ___ 55-64
   - ___ 65-74
   - ___ 75+

3) Do you have children or youth in your household? (Check all that apply)
   - ___ Yes, ages 0-5
   - ___ Yes, ages 6-12
   - ___ Yes, ages 13-18
   - ___ Yes, ages 19 and up
   - ___ No

4) Do you live or work in Palo Alto? (Check all that apply)
   - ___ Work in Palo Alto
   - ___ Own a business in Palo Alto
   - ___ Visitor
   - ___ Live in a nearby community
   - ___ Live in Palo Alto

5) If you live in Palo Alto, in which neighborhood do you reside?

6) How do you describe yourself? (Check all that apply)
   - ___ White/Caucasian
   - ___ African American
   - ___ Hispanic/Latino
   - ___ Asian/Pacific Islander
   - ___ American Indian or Alaska Native
   - ___ Other (please specify) __________________________
Preserves, Natural Features and Sustainability

7) We have heard from the Palo Alto community that one of the most important functions of the City’s parks and open space preserves is to protect natural resources and habitat. How important are the following options for achieving this goal in Palo Alto? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>1 not important</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incorporating bird- and butterfly-friendly plants in our neighborhood parks and streetscapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-naturalizing creek banks in parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planting more ecologically appropriate trees in parks that support habitat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Replacing manicured spaces, such as mowed lawns, with native species and drought tolerant plantings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incorporating edible plants such as fruit and herbs into the landscape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Removing invasive plant species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

8) How appropriate are the following ideas for connecting people to nature at one or more of Palo Alto’s open space preserves (Baylands, Pearson-Arastradero Preserve and Esther Clark Preserve)? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 indicating the feature is not appropriate and 5 indicating that it is very appropriate?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>1 not important</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very important</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event pavilion or large covered picnic areas</td>
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<td>Paved paths (e.g. asphalt, concrete)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural paths (e.g. dirt, decomposed granite, base rock)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature play (e.g. spaces for kids to dig in dirt, climb logs and play in water)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open space for large group activities such as Frisbee or other pickup games</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental and educational opportunities such as signage or enhanced interpretive centers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
9) How appropriate are the following policies and practices to help create a more environmentally sustainable park system in Palo Alto? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 indicating the policy is not appropriate and 5 indicating that it is very appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>1 not appropriate</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very appropriate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expanding use of recycled water for irrigation of turf and landscaped areas (Note this will require transition to different plant varieties that can thrive in recycled water)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Using artificial turf on sports fields to reduce water use and expand playing time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avoiding artificial turf in favor of natural grass turf that absorbs water and doesn’t use plastics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Removing grass turf where not needed for sports to reduce water use and replacing with other features including native plants</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Designating more space for community gardens and spaces for urban agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Installing permeable paving, rain gardens or other features that allow soil to absorb rain and reducing storm water runoff</td>
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</table>

Parks and Facilities

10) This long-range master plan provides us with an opportunity to reimagine the types of features and activities that can take place in Palo Alto’s parks and recreation facilities. How appropriate would the following features be in Palo Alto? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 indicating the feature is not appropriate and 5 indicating that it is very appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>1 not appropriate</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very appropriate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and beverage services at high traffic parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small scale features that add new activities to parks such as badminton courts, ping pong courts/tables or bocce ball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bike skills area/pump track – a small looped dirt track that can be used by mountain bikes, BMX bikes or kids bikes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please elaborate on any answer here


PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN SURVEY
11) As additions or improvements are made to existing park facilities, how important are the following amenities to making park visits more comfortable and convenient? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being not important and 5 being very important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>1 not important</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very important</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>More benches and places to sit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water (drinking fountains, water faucets)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to public transit</td>
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<tr>
<td>More shade for seating and resting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to WiFi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities to purchase food or drinks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

12) We heard from Palo Alto community members that enhancing health and well-being is one of the most important functions of parks. Of the facilities listed below, which are appropriate for Palo Alto to improve or add to its system to achieve this function? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not appropriate and 5 being very appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>1 not appropriate</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very appropriate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multi-generational play areas designed to maximize creativity, brain development and motor skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bicycle and pedestrian connections to parks and recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loop paths and trails within a park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiet areas in parks for connection to nature and relaxation</td>
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<tr>
<td>More recreation and exercise classes in parks, such as boot camps or yoga classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor exercise equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature orientated activities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
13) How should the City accommodate the dog owning community in Palo Alto parks? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not appropriate and 5 being very appropriate in Palo Alto’s parks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>1 not appropriate</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very appropriate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve existing dog parks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated times when dogs can be off-leash in certain parks in a partially or non-fenced area (would require a change to current city ordinance).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharing existing fenced-in spaces, such as baseball fields, during limited hours that don’t interfere with organized sports play</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional dedicated (fenced) off-leash areas within parks</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No additional dog parks in Palo Alto</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14) Are you a dog owner?
   ___ Yes
   ___ No

Recreation Centers and Programs

15) How important is the enhancement or addition of the following recreation programs or features in Palo Alto? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being not important and 5 being very important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>1 not important</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gym-based sports and activities (basketball, volleyball, badminton etc.)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness classes (yoga, zumba, crossfit, etc.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social events/spaces (community meals, dances, game rooms, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martial arts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clubs and classes organized around particular interests (robotics, book clubs, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fitness equipment/weight room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
16) The Cubberley Community Center plays a unique role in Palo Alto, providing space for community providers of a wide range of activities and services, listed here. How important are the following types of activities to you? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being not important and 5 being very important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cubberley Artist Studio Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance Studios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Sports and Health Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Wellness including Stroke &amp; Cardiovascular Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education - Private Schools and Special Interest Classes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rooms available to rent for other activities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

17) Please share ideas you have for activities or programs that would better serve any of the following populations in our community. Feel free to indicate that there is a need even if you don’t have a particular idea.

- Lower income residents
- Ethnic/cultural or linguistic groups (please specify group)
- People with disabilities
- Pre-school children (0-5)
- Elementary aged youth (6-11)
- Middle school age youth (12-14)
- High school age youth (15-18)
- Young adults (19-25)
- Families
- Seniors

Please share ideas you have for activities or programs, specifying which population the idea would benefit.

____________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________

18) How important are the following enhancements to Palo Alto’s aquatic options? Rate each of the following improvements on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being not important and 5 being very important for Palo Alto.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enhancement</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional lessons and aquatics programming</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhanced competitive swimming (e.g. more time available, better spectator seating, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>More opportunities for recreational swimming (less competitive, suitable for beginner and intermediate swimmers)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvements to existing Rinconada pools and supporting facilities (changing rooms etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improved social, gathering and observation space around the existing pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>An additional public pool elsewhere in Palo Alto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water play (splash pad or interactive fountain) at more parks in the system</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
19) The City of Palo Alto has offered various types of events in parks, including major community festivals, concerts and movies. How should the City structure and plan its events? Select the choice that best represents the balance the City should strike between large and small events.

- More frequent, smaller events, rotating around neighborhood and downtown parks
- Mostly smaller events
- Balanced between smaller and larger events
- Mostly larger events
- Less frequent, larger events, such as an annual festival or seasonal walks/runs

**Use of Limited Resources**

20) The City of Palo Alto has limited meeting rooms, picnic areas, campsites and canoes available for rental or reservation. Indicate whether you support, don’t support or are not sure about the following strategies for prioritizing use of these facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Don’t support</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available on a first-come first-serve basis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority availability for residents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Equal availability for residents, corporate events, and local employees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available to residents and non-profit organizations but not businesses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prioritized for youth activities over adult activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More picnic areas and facilities in more of our parks available for reservation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

21) Palo Alto’s sports fields are a limited resource, used by a range of users, with priority given to youth organizations. Indicate whether you support, don’t support or are not sure about the statements below regarding how our sports fields should be managed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Don’t support</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximize all fields for local Palo Alto based organized sports leagues (current policy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Include SOME unreserved field time for other uses including pick-up games, classes or special events in the parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create ways for new sports and informal groups to reserve field time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allow more access for competitive teams from the entire region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open for longer hours through additional lighting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
22) Palo Alto is geographically surrounded by other cities and the Bay, limiting the new land that can be added to the parks and recreation system. How well do you think the following would work to enhance the park system in Palo Alto? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not appropriate and 5 being very appropriate.

| Use right-of-ways, easements and other small publicly owned properties for trails, parks or community gardens | 1 not appropriate | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 very appropriate |
| Actively pursue opportunities to acquire land for new or expanded neighborhood parks |
| Create multi-use spaces that enhance the opportunity for different activities on different days and times (e.g. flexible sport courts or fields with multiple sets of lines/equipment) |
| Create plazas and public spaces on the grounds of other public buildings |
| Enhance the walking and biking experience (e.g. better sidewalks, separated bikeways etc.) on routes to existing parks |
| Concentrate organized sports play at select sites to allow more diverse use of neighborhood parks |
| Other (please specify) | ________________ |

23) Which major improvements, facilities and additions to parks (all of which will require significant funding and staff time) should the City prioritize? Rank the types of projects below in order 1-6, with 1 being highest priority and 6 being lowest priority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invest in enhancing and improving neighborhood parks across the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expansion/renovation of the Rinconada Pool and facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvements to the Lucie Evans Baylands Interpretative Center and boardwalk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvements and renovation to the 7.7 acres recently added to Foothills Park (near Oak Grove picnic area)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovations to the Cubberley Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
24) The renovation of the golf course has resulted in an additional 10.5 acres of land near the Baylands Athletic Center that has been designated for future recreational use. What facilities or spaces would be appropriate for this site? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not appropriate and 5 being very appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>1 not appropriate</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very appropriate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional sports fields</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skatepark</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community gardens or orchards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Area for hiking and bird watching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</table>

Meeting Community Needs

25) How well do you feel that the Palo Alto Parks and Recreation system (all of the parks, facilities, trails, preserves etc.) meets your needs in the following areas? Rate each response on a scale of 1-5, with 1 indicating your needs are not being met and 5 indicating all of your needs are being met in this area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>1 needs not met</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 all needs are met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical (facilities are accessible and offer activities that you are able to participate in and enjoy)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Language (information, signage and classes are offered in your native language)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education (activities, facilities and classes that stimulate and enhance your knowledge and interests)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural (facilities and classes offer diverse cultural perspectives)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (there are facilities and recreation opportunities that are appropriate for you and your family members’ ages).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proximity to parks and recreation facilities close to where you spend your time (home, school or work)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Service/Volunteer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
26) What limits your participation in programs and classes or your use of recreation facilities? Rate each option on a scale of 1-5, with 1 indicating that the answer choice is not a challenge for you and 5 indicating that the answer choice makes it very difficult for you to access parks and/or activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 not a challenge</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very difficult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of activity or class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Time and days at which the activity is offered or facility is open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes are full or over-crowded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel distance is too great</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walking and biking does not feel safe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public transit is unavailable or inconvenient</td>
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<tr>
<td>The facilities or classes do not meet my physical needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>There is nothing offered in which I am interested</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

27) Public facilities and programs are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide access for and usability by people with disabilities. Park sites and programs can be designed beyond this standard to be universally accessible, to accommodate everyone regardless of age or ability. How important is it that Palo Alto exceed the legal minimums and strive for universal accessibility? Put a check or “x” next to your answer choice.

___ Extremely important __ Not at all important
___ Very important ________ Slightly important
___ Moderately important ___ No opinion

28) The City strives to strike the appropriate balance in using limited maintenance resources to provide the best possible service. How important are additional dollars for the maintenance (cleaning, small repairs, etc.) to improve the following facilities? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being not important and 5 being very important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 not important</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports fields</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis courts</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation centers and other indoor facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails and natural areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Interpretation and Communications**

29) Providing information in parks, on trails, in recreation facilities and at preserves is an important opportunity in the system. How important are the following topics for you to learn about when visiting parks in Palo Alto? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>**</th>
<th>1 not important</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable practices being used in parks such as water conservation, reduced waste and energy efficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural habitats and how preservation, including restricted access in some cases, may benefit species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Names and characteristics of species (flora and fauna) in the area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities in which people can participate in the park (city-organized and self-directed activities)</td>
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<tr>
<td>History including conservation of the area and the park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

30) Providing information in parks, on trails, in recreation facilities and at preserves is an important opportunity in the system. How important are the following topics for you to learn about when visiting parks in Palo Alto? Rate each answer choice on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>**</th>
<th>1 not important</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One website that hosts all information about events, classes, camps and park news for all services in the City.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Separate websites for different types of programs (arts, recreation, etc.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A catalog mailed to you with all seasonal events, classes, camps and park news</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An e-catalog emailed to you with all seasonal events, classes, camps and park news</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One monthly newsletter with all recreational, educational and cultural experiences including updates and offerings (hard copy or email)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate monthly newsletters for each different area of interest</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Other Comments

31) Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan?

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your feedback. To learn more about the Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan visit: www.paloaltoparksplan.org/ or call 650-617-3183.
Palo Alto Parks, Trail, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

Ideas for activities or programs (Question 17)

1. Lower income: Places where Hispanic families can park several cars and listen to music in large family groups. - Pre-school: Places where seniors can sit in the shade of a memorial grove to reflect - and watch their grandchildren play.

2. 1. Consider DOG PARKS as the huge SOCIAL and cross-generational entertainment resource that they are ! ! ! ! 2. Class and event fees that seem low to most Palo Altans seem OUT OF REACH to many lower income & senior folks. We'd participate more if there were many free or nearly-free concerts, classes such as tai chi and yoga, etc.

3. 60 minutes a day of exercise per child...... Soccer, lacrosse and other field sports continue to grow and fields are harder and harder to come by.

4. A free day two or three times a year for anyone in high school or older to bring a few pieces of their art and share with others, then receive feedback.

5. A goal for me would be for Palo Alto to provide as much for the non-wealthy residents as for those who are wealthy. This especially for Spanish speaking laborers who seem to be the first to kick out of the benefits of living in Palo Alto. I am speaking specifically of those recently being relocated out of the mobile home park in Barron Park but also for many other renters, children who attend school here and seniors on fixed incomes. Palo alto is a wonderland for the wealthy. Share the wealth of recreation activities with those who clean the park bathrooms and cook the food in the restaurants, etc.

6. A large number of Palo Alto families have pets, the current infrastructure and ordinances only support small breed dogs.

7. A multi sport complex in PA would allow the space for youth through adult competitive to recreational sports to be played in PA year round. Our current fields our overloaded with youth and adults wanting to play organized sports year round. We have the weather for year round outdoor sports in PA. Let's give our community the opportunity to stay health and active year round.

8. A program for all K-12 children/young adults to have a presentation by people in different types of jobs with no distinction between jobs appropriate for males vs females

9. Ability to join community gardens.

10. Access to technology and a maker-space that is connected to public transit

11. Activities/events for single adults older than 25. Recreational sports teams/classes/activities for teens. For teens that wish to play recreational sports or try a new one, there are essentially no opportunities. Sports classes for a variety of sports for adults. Clubs/interest groups for adults.

12. Addition of ping pong tables to the park system

13. addition of ping pong tables to the park system

14. Adult English Language Classes and Health Classes Provided in Other Languages

15. After hours "nightclub" or coffee shop setting where teens can hang out after 9pm.
16. After school activities for JLS and Gunn kids. Giving them a place. I would ask them what they would like.
17. After-school center for low income residents - activities, homework help.
18. Aging at home.
19. Any activity that gets people outdoors and exercise is good. Everyone benefits.
20. Any out reach programs to the above populations that would promote physical activity. School aged children have P.E. All others should also be getting some form of exercise in order to improve health and stave off hypokinetic diseases.
21. Any programs that are possible to include the handicapped should be possible. There is very little available for the handicapped. Trail and paths for wheelchairs and walkers are always appreciated.
22. Any programs that get kids outside interacting with their parents would be healthy for our community.
23. Art printed activities for differing ages and abilities
24. Art program for kids and adults
25. Arts, dance, music, Martial arts, indoor and outdoor sports
26. As I have said, more safe outdoor activities for teens, and an additional city pool.
27. As I said above (and yes, my child is affected), you have pushed out girls' softball practice from convenient schools and parks to Cubberley, making it more cumbersome to working parents. This is a gentler social team sport.
28. Baseball Playing Fields needed severely
29. Baseball programs for players who are not able to make a team in the Babe Ruth League or their high school team.
30. Basketball courts for pickup games.
31. Be nice if Palo Alto promotes a pluralistic community, where people of different cultures, socio-economic levels, disabilities can all come together to celebrate our diversity and our common bond, that we are all citizens of Palo Alto. Perhaps monthly or quarterly social or educational events can be sponsored by the city celebrating the assets of diverse groups.
32. Better access to middle school sports programs. Programs do not have sufficient facilities and/or instructors to support demand from students.
33. bocci, ping pong, giant sized "board" games e.g. chess & checkers
34. book clubs at the new mitchell park library
35. Build dirt park for bikes and include smaller skate park areas, e.g. Hopkins Creekside Park to give middle school and high school students opportunities to hang out together. Also ping pong tables.-- Re Hopkins Creekside, this would at the same time address the issue of homeless people and dealers hanging out in those areas.
36. Cafe near Rinconada. It is a one mile walk in any direction to get to a cafe. Coffee cart would be fine. Also, I agree that older kids need something to do at the parks, such as climbing walls, ping pong or paved bike paths. Let's get these kids unplugged!
37. Chess games or more sports
39. City sponsored preschool for all residents. Could kickstart the most important value to society - the value of education!
40. City-sponsored nature play / dirt play program (or pre-school?) for kids to connect them with nature. Programs that foster imagination and creativity, such as the Live Action Role Play programs.
41. Class fees are prohibitively high for low income residents. For seniors, increase public transit to parks and community centers.
42. Classes and services that help "level the playing field" and create equal opportunity and access to resources
43. Clubs with activities or sports (biking, badminton, ping pong for instance) for young adults with disabilities.
44. coffee shops, music venue/open milk
45. Community based ESL classes and tutoring
46. Community centers other than Mitchell Library and Cubberley. We will need Cubberly as a high school again for all of the kids coming to Palo Alto.
47. Community Gardens can satisfy a large cross section of people. More food for lower income is needed. Learning to grow your own is important.
48. computer literacy, programming, and robotics - kids need places to learn and play and not all the schools have time or inclination to offer these kinds of activities, so would be great to get this through the city programs.
49. Concerned there is little teen space in Palo Alto. Current fields are over subscribed and some teams (AYSO) reserve and do not show up, leaving the space unoccupied. This happens year after year
50. concrete ping pong tables
51. concrete ping-pong tables
52. connect after school care with palo alto enjoy activities- kids can have variety of activities, and working parents don't have to shuttle them to and from activities
53. Connecting elderly seniors with their neighbors. Several live near me and they are very isolated. I stop in to check on them but getting them more visible to neighbors would help make them be part of our community.
54. Connecting people across generations is essential for everyone's well being - it promotes understanding and appreciation of one another's needs and values. Art and music programs can accomplish that. We are so fortunate to live in a community full of talented seniors and youth. Why not bring them together? Teaching and learning opportunities abound when we share our passions with other generations. Events where young and old work together to create art and music, teach each other, listen and appreciate what everyone has to offer.
55. Context appropriate contemporary public art (including event and interaction based cross-disciplinary temporary) projects for very inclusive groups of people.
56. cooking classes during the day for non-working parents and seniors--I conducted one for disabled patients at Services for Brain Injured.
57. Daycare and young child activities are critical for all income groups as they provide essential early life enrichment and opportunities for parents who don't have large financial resources to
work while their youngster is in care. Junior high and high school kids need to have
recreational activities and safe places to go to get through their afternoon without getting into
trouble, as well as study rooms for the same purpose and for education support. Seniors need
social stimulation and support with transportation and food acquisition and preparation.

58. destressing activities, social clubs
59. Do we have 'scholarship programs' to cover costs for low income families? I support pre-
school and middle school activities.
60. Dog Parks
61. Dog training and socialization activities. There are Many dogs in the city and many of the
owners need to work more with their dogs to both enhance the experience but also to make
their dogs safer in and for the community. Making it easy because it is local would mean more
families would participate. Offer dog first aid, caring for the aging dog, and other topics
beyond training.
62. Drop in basketball in evenings and over summer
63. Educational programs about nature, growing vegetables, etc.
64. Encouraging groups like scouting to help kids get outdoors by providing facilities and course
Volunteer opportunities for kids especially on PAUSD holiday days (e.g. veterans day - there
was NOTHING organised)
65. Enhanced habitat value of parks so they can interact with nature close to home.
66. ENJOY CLASSES NEED IMPROVEMENTS. TEACHERS THAT ALLOWED TO TEACH THE CLASSES
SHOULD PROVIDE QUALITY CLASSES, AND NOT ALLOW TO CHARGE FEES IN ADDITION TO THE
FEE POSTED ON THE CATALOG. ENJOY SHOULD REQUIRE MANDATORY SURVEY/COMMENT
CARD TO BE FILLED OUT BY STUDENTS/PARENTS AFTER EACH CLASS SECTION TO MONITOR
THE QUALITY OF CLASSES PROVIDED BY THOSE TEACHERS/ORGANIZATION. THERE ARE NOT
VERY MUCH MUSIC CLASSES OFFERED THROUGH ENJOY, NOR SPORT/GYMNASTIC CLASSES.
PLEASE ALLOW/INVITE MORE TEACHERS OR ORANIZATIONS TO COME AND TEACH IN PALO
ALTO. EXISITING TEACHERS CANCEL OR NO SHOW FOR CLASSES OFTEN WITHOUT NOTIFY
ATTENDEES. PLEASE DEMAND ACCOUNTIBILITY OF THOSE TEACHERS. MORE VARIETY OF
CLASSES WILL BENEFIT BABIES THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL CHILDREN, SO THEY MAY EXPLORE
THEIR INTEREST IN LIFE PRIOR TO FOCUSING THEIR ACADEMIC WORK IN HIGH SCHOOL.
67. ESL classes, parenting classes, job training classes
68. Even more classes
69. Events that bring seniors and younger kids together to share time/experiences. Kids can earn
volunteer time
70. expand maker space hours and opportunities for youth; create opportunities for students to
connect with professionals at Cubberley
71. Fitness, technology, educational, nature programs all have merit. Programs oriented towards
racial/ethnic/religious exclusivity should be avoided.
72. Foothill offers several exercise classes for seniors. We will lose them when Foothill leaves the
campus. Is there a way that the city can continue them?
73. For every demographic, community gardens w/hands on in-the-garden classes. eGadget repair
(less waste)
74. for kids: more summer camps and ongoing enrichment classes (via partners, potentially)
75. For youth ages 12-25 we need many of the activities listed in Q15 above. In particular, we need to support our teens who need more places to go and things to do in their neighborhoods—ping pong, open gym, play music, etc.. They also need to be connected with their communities via internships, small jobs, and through interest groups. The German youth center model is an excellent one.
76. Free Social Meeting Places for young adults to meet, connect, find support and engage in activities together
77. From time to time there are "family" programs that use community spaces, open or otherwise, however these don't go very far to recognize that families take many forms. The type of hike that a family of middle or high schoolers would be interested in is not one that preschoolers would share. Same for art etc. And not all middle and high schoolers want to be dropped off to do these things without others in their family. It would be fantastic to see more stratification of such programs, building on activities and skills introduced to younger aged families. It would also be nice to see more opportunities for middle and high school youth to engage in service to their community - maintaining trails etc
78. full commitment to maintaining playing fields in best possible condition to improve safety of players
79. Fun nature talks and walks for families. Family art times. Middle school activities after school. Service activity for high schoolers.
80. Gathering places, study places.
81. GED tutoring that leads to the GED test in Palo Alto, so young adults/adults can graduate from high school.
82. get people to meet and to make friends. Make a friendly open-minded community
83. Get togethers of folks with certain skills, a knitters group, a carpenters group etc. Would love a shop where seniors could sell their homemade items.
84. Getting everyone disconnected from their devices and being outdoors is critical. All ways to engage people with nature need thoughtful attention and financial resources.
85. given middle school athletic low capacity, supplementing impacted sports (basketball, football etc) would be helpful.
86. Good places to blow off steam and manage/minimize stress!
87. Greater opportunity for ping pong and badminton indoors
88. Habitat-friendly plantings and reducing excess lawns in time of drought are good ideas, but PLEASE KEEP the vast lawns of Rinconada Park-- they are a defining feature of the open space there, so beautiful, and fun to run around on. Please do NOT litter the beauty of Rinconada Park with distracting art installations. Not everyone wants to look at someone else's sculpture when in a green space.
89. Have a tennis program for kids
90. Have parks available with disability access. Improve the soccer fields - they are terrible
91. Have pool open some hours more oh the year or year round during weekdays, even if just a couple of days per week! Currently the pool is often even closed the hottest part of the summer, late Aug and sept
92. Have regular walks in nature with young children to get them to appreciate nature and get away from their cellphones.

93. Health and wellness including brain exercises

94. I always marvelled at City of Los Altos Family Movie nights in summer when the downtown area closes to traffic and families come to watch movies. Also a dog parade in downtown would be a great idea.

95. I checked "paved paths" earlier because of friends who use wheelchairs.

96. I don't have specific ideas, but I have indicated two groups that I am guessing are neglected in terms of city activities.

97. I don't know specifically if there is a need but it feels that low income families and middle school kids would benefit from outdoors activities.

98. I don't see older kids using parks other than in organized sports. We need to have infrastructure that will attract them to the parks and engage them in the parks like ping pong tables, skateboarding tracks, badminton courts etc.

99. I enjoy bird watching and would be neat to see more and larger quiet natural areas for this and overall get away from urban life.

100. I feel like there was a downtown "club" atmosphere type place for teenagers when we first moved here. That was before I had kids but it seemed like a good idea. "clean fun" weekend night activities.

101. I like the events based around bringing families into our parks by some of the summertime programs- music, parades, community sport days (volley ball or badminton, ping pong, etc) events, dance events, etc. I encourage finding ways to get Palo Altan's to use and enjoy our great neighborhood parks, etc.

102. I like the idea of ping pong tables, tournaments etc. There are not enough activities for teens in the parks.

103. I think parks should be nature preserves rather than all things for all people.

104. I think that the City should not get involved with such activities or programs on an on-going basis. A few, selected events per year might be appropriate.

105. I think the parks are pretty good as they are now.

106. I would like to see more of an effort to utilize indoor facilities such as Cubberley for sports like volleyball or badminton. The only options for those sports are club teams that are incredibly expensive. There should be leagues run by Parks & Rec for sports such as these in the winter months especially.

107. I would love an open art studio for adults, where anyone can come in and paint. Perhaps with rentable lockers for storing art supplies.

108. I'd like to see more mid-day classes for people with flexible work schedules who prefer to be home in the evening or for "stay-at-home" parents whose kids are in school. Weight training circuits, yoga, Pilates, etc. Or how about a late afternoon cooking class and you take your new meal home with your dinner.

109. If there was a way to have an interactive screen in rooms whether it was a lecture program, a fitness class, a concert, or some other class that a house bound senior, disabled, sick/home bound or home bound person/child/caregiver could watch and or participate from home,
much like 2 individuals on iPads or iPhones having face time or skyping would do. It would allow those who could not be there to be there through this method. In some cases it might be one screen that all could watch on and not interact. Maybe like a webinar format. In other cases someone could sign up for a class or discussion they want to be interactive with and an individual could attend for them with an iPad and hold it and move it so the pets on at home could see everything and interact with what is going on in the room.

110. Importance of nature in our lives
111. Improve and better maintain that fields that are used for youth soccer. It would benefit the many many youth soccer players.
112. Inclusive, nature events at open space parks to introduce families and young children to nature. Nature is accessible, fun and educational for children with disabilities and low-income families, but when it's not a priority (when facing several jobs or endless therapies), it’s easy to forget to expose young children to nature. Community events, invitations for inclusive family events, and natural play spaces in our open parks will engage all Palo Alto children with nature.
113. Increase city support of tennis activities
114. increase tennis activities
115. Increase tennis activities.
116. Increase tennis activities. Tennis is an inclusive sport for all ages. Tennis has been right-sized for kids and seniors. USTA NorCal is an active supporter of community initiatives and must be taken advantage; local corporations has large tennis-playing community. Meeting their demands will open more corporate-community outreach initiatives!
117. Increase tennis activities. Tennis is an inclusive sport for all ages. Tennis has been right-sized for kids and seniors. USTA NorCal is an active supporter of community initiatives and must be taken advantage; local corporations has large tennis-playing community. Meeting their demands will open more corporate-community outreach initiatives!
118. Increase tennis activities. Tennis is an inclusive sport for all ages. Tennis has been right-sized for kids and seniors. USTA NorCal is an active supporter of community initiatives and must be taken advantage; local corporations has large tennis-playing community. Meeting their demands will open more corporate-community outreach initiatives!
119. Increase tennis activities. Tennis is an inclusive sport for all ages. Tennis has been right-sized for kids and seniors. USTA NorCal is an active supporter of community initiatives and must be taken advantage; local corporations has large tennis-playing community. Meeting their demands will open more corporate-community outreach initiatives!--Fits all groups
120. Increase tennis activities. Tennis is an inclusive sport for all ages. Tennis has been right-sized for kids and seniors. USTA NorCal is an active supporter of community initiatives and we must take advantage of this. Local corporations also have a large tennis-playing community. Meeting their demands will open more corporate-community outreach initiatives!
121. increased access to community gardens
122. Instituting concrete ping pong tables in the palo alto park system would benefit everyone
123. intergenerational programming
It is important to have activities for all ages to keep them active and interacting with other people.

It would be great to see the return of the boat harbor next to the airport.

It would be helpful to have more programs aimed at single working adults. There are good programs for seniors, teens, and children, but fewer for adults in general. Especially helpful, would be programs offered after work hours and on the weekends. For example, I've always wanted to try your water aerobics class, but it is only offered at times seniors or other non-working adults could attend.

It would be nice to be able to walk to a local park or somewhere like Cubberley, be able to buy a coffee and play with kids and socialise with other neighbours and families (like we could in Sydney!). Palo Alto doesn't seem to be designed that way at the moment - I guess it's more of an urban family lifestyle type of thing.

It's very challenging to keep our youth fit with the increase in homework that abounds in the bay area. No data supports the high volume of homework as a positive trend but lots of data supports the lack of exercise as a bad trend. Parks and open spaces are key tools for me as a mom to try and keep my family healthy physically and mentally -- so drop the rules and restrictions. Focus on keeping the parks welcoming and open. I want to live in a community that gets along with one another, that makes way for one another, not one that assumes the worst of each neighbor and spends hours generating laws based on fear and assumption and ignorance. Don't let the nature-extremists or the animal-fearing fanatics kick the families (dogs, kids, grandparents) out. We are raising the next generation of hikers and bikers -- we want them to be welcoming and kind and polite and respectful. Let's show them how it's done by trusting one another a little more and only dealing harshly with the outliers.

Kids need GOOD and HEALTHY things to do

learn to swim programs in public schools at the pools in palo alto

Let's focus on the families who have worked very hard to live here.

Look at Magical Bridge for ideas whenever new or replacement playground equipment is planned.

Low income residents would benefit from places to exercise such as jogging, or weight equipment, low cost/free yoga at the parks. Private gym memberships are beyond the reach of low income and seniors but we want these populations to be healthy and fit.

lower economic: food cooking and healthy choices, diabetic and sugar awareness. people with disabilities: take of CAR warm swimming pool Have afterschool athletic programs other than soccer such as basketball or tennis clinics for children 6-11

Lower income- I'm not aware that much now exists for this group. Teens- workshops/classes in areas of expertise of interest to them. For example, Art classes (or art parties, workshops, portfolio reviews)-- current city arts programming focuses on kids under 12.

Middle and High school students have little to do in the community since the schools have cancelled summer school. I'd like to see the city step up and offer classes or programs (a fee can be charged to cover the cost) to keep these students engaged over the summer.

Middle school dances Teen drop-in center

mindfulness classes for families, yoga. It would benefit all age groups.
139. Mini parks where neighbors can gather that are close enough to walk between.
140. Money management & financial independence - how to manage money, avoid scams and be independent for youth and adults.
141. More access to people/children with special needs Better quality playing fields for youth sports like soccer
142. More activities for youth to keep them out of trouble
143. More after school options for children in elementary school.
144. More after school sports programs.
145. more and varied play structures- such as large "spider web" climbing structures, large rock walls, varied slides, etc; with as much shade as possible to protect against sun exposure.
146. More athletic fields
147. More community gardens
148. More community spaces for families to grow fruits and vegetables
149. More diversity of play structures/challenges between the different parks would be fantastic for kids. Right now many of the parks an interchangeable and going to the park quickly becomes repetitive. More kinds of climbing structures, challenges with balance, places to hide, rope structure shapes, etc.
150. More field science activities and education in an outdoor setting.
151. More music, language, and art programs for seniors and stay-at-home parents in the mornings. Currently, the Palo Alto Adult School offerings are mostly at night when it is difficult for many adults to make use of them.
152. more naturalist programs, better mapping within parks including latin names and common names of plants and animals, more guided walks/talks to bird watch, how to draw flowers, how to watercolor or oil paints nature...art classes don't have to be within the parks, but bring about an appreciation of how to better look at nature, etc.
153. more nature and ecology based outdoor education
154. More places for Teens to host activities. Bowling as an example is no longer available. Make sure the Sports activities are supported by nice surroundings for generations to come.
155. More priority fields for softball, less for soccer
156. More recreation opportunities for high schoolers
157. more senior activities
158. More Soccer fields
159. More social sports leagues. Let an organization like 4 Sheets Sports use our parks for things like social kickball leagues.
160. More spaces in middle and high school sports so that they don't become "cut sports" in middle school! All MS and HS kids who want to should be able to play sports.
161. More tennis courts will benefit children, young adults and older adults
162. nature centered activities that educate and require people to be outdoors and use their imagination, unstructured play, creativity, unplugged.
163. Need a thriving teen center as a resource for local teens especially in light of Gunn Suicide rates and prevalence of teen depression.
164. Need to have a community center similar to the ones in Vancouver, Canada where an indoor pool encourage family gathering. Inexpensive membership also help in explain why it's popular with the community. The center is always full and I would strongly suggest looking at how they build their facilities.

165. no specific ideas but we need to be sure all of those categories are considered when setting up activities.

166. Not listed, but what about designated outdoor spaces for adults (no children)? Often when I try to use the park, little kids run into the area of play and interrupt. Kids are nice, but a space without having to worry about kids underfoot can be nice, too. It also seems to me that we could do more to make our parks accessible to people with disabilities, though I'm not sure of anything specific to do.

167. Off leash dog areas. Off leash areas provide safe social opportunities for all ages especially seniors. Research shows dogs improve health and well being of individuals of all ages and families.

168. Once kids outgrow the playground, they are often involved in organized sports - even if only on a casual basis. The city has enough playgrounds at the schools and parks for free play time but an abysmal number of playing fields available for the youth (through adult!) leagues who are active in soccer/basketball/baseball/etc clubs... and that's especially true when compared to surrounding communities' athletic facilities. The open spaces are nice to look at and occasionally visit for a walk, but this is a town where people of all ages/ethnicities are in organized sports - it's just that there's not enough room for all the teams to practice regularly, let alone have room for casual pickup games. This leads to crazy practice schedules and insane traffic jams just getting across town to the one field with 10 teams sharing the same small space.

169. Open studio opportunities to work with artists at Cubberley--for people of all ages.

170. Open up Foothills park to neighboring LAH and other communities.

171. Opportunities for these demographic groups to interact with each other. There is too much segregation of demographic groups.

172. opportunity for casual baseball, basketball, volleyball, etc. (as opposed to competitive leagues)

173. organized birthday parties--for all ages. kite flying events--all ages

174. Organized games in a regular place for healthy seniors who just need more social outlets.

175. organized sports, yoga, weight training, physical therapy (core training), book reviews/clubs

176. Organized tai chi

177. Outdoor activity/interest clubs as listed above (especially hiking and camping and backpacking trip opportunities - Foothill Park awareness).

178. Outdoor movie nights. In Tahoe they have movie nights every weekend. They have an inflatable screen that they bring in. It is fun to have a picnic and watch a movie under the stars.

179. PA already does a lot for all of the above. They are used seasonally and to date no huge outcry has been made demanding more than we do now.

180. PAGS Softball is very important
Palo Alto is "notoriously unaffordable" and the debate over the Mobile Home community makes that plain. All our community needs to feel welcome, not only the latest generation of tech billionaires.

Palo Alto needs to do everything possible to support lower-income residents’ access to the community.

Parks and outdoor places where patients from the VA might enjoy a break from a hospital room

Parks, etc. are of particular interest to lower income people.

Partnerships with local students and faculty to bring K-12 kids to study nature in the parks. Make positive, real life connections, especially for low income residents.

People needs to spend more time outdoors with nature and less time with screens and processed food. Don't put WiFi and Food Vendors in the Parks.

Perhaps community centers where middle/high school kids might go for clubs or classes, but also for informal, drop-in activities (e.g., a game room with pool, fusball, pin-pong, board games, etc.).

Pickleball--all ages. Indoor pool--people with disabilities, seniors, families

Pilates for the elderly to help with balance issues to cut down on falling and broken bones and injuries.

Place ping pong tables in the parks and community centers. Place badminton courts in the parks and gyms. Both ping pong and badminton give a good work out, and serve many levels of fitness and many ages, especially teens, yet there are no places, or very few places, to play these sports in Palo Alto.

Place to fly RC electric planes. car race track

Places for the kids to play that are not required to be scheduled

places to hang out safetly

Places where seniors can gather with their dogs and both can hike and exercise together. Family nature experiences that include their dogs.

Plant identification, hikes, water source and management

Play areas for pre-school kids, programs and activities for families & seniors.

Play areas where they can dig, construct things with materials like wood similar to the one in Berkeley - with places for the adults to sit. I would bring my 4 grandchildren.

play ground built to be fun and challenging to this age group with water or climbing type equipment

Please add water features to more parks. The one at Mitchell is nice but it would be great to have one at rinconada or somewhere else in the northern part of the city. It would also take pressure off expanding capacity at the rinconada pool.

Please consider: When you form a survey, its important to allow more often for "no opinion" or "insufficient knowledge" or you will get meaningless answers to some questions.

Please have more open swim times at Rinconada for children, year-round - take a look at what Menlo Park is doing with their very well run pool!!!!

pool facilities to replace Betty Wright aquatics
203. Poorly managed dogs are a serious detriment to the enjoyment of public spaces. Even a moderately dense community such as Palo Alto should not devote large areas to dogs. We are bothered by exuberant animals: physically, noise and waste.

204. Pre school opportunities in Palo Alto are weak. Suicides prove that middle and high school students are really at risk here. We should scan and adopt best practices from around the world.

205. Preserve all tennis courts.

206. Programs that connect kids with the environment, particularly underserved kids (of all ages). Programs that keep seniors active (mind and body). Programs that families can do together that engage the outdoors and wellness.

207. Programs to educate about nature, such as the Audubon's nature walk.

208. Provide day programs for individuals with dementia, a service that helps families care for their loved ones.

209. Provide more age-targeted activities and you don't need to provide ethnic ones--everyone welcome.

210. Public outdoor ping pong tables are great for all ages.

211. Recreational sports, subsidized with low fees. Soccer, wiffle ball, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, others.

212. Reduced cost space for ethnic dance troupes.

213. Rinconada pool recreational use should be reserved for Palo Alto residents and their guests, much like access to Foothills park.

214. Russian speaking community.

215. Sanskrit Linguistic group to retain and rejuvenate the ancient language. More organized & free safe play options for middle & high school students in this highly stressed community. More opportunities and facilities for neighbors to get together.

216. Schedule weekly bike rides of differing levels of difficulty for seniors to join. For example, bike Palo Alto Baylands trail to Stevens Creek trail, then back through foothill parkway every Friday. Another day bike into Los Altos Hills and back, etc. Another route: to the Water Temple and back via Woodside.

217. See www.challengesuccess.org for great programming ideas I believe our community needs desperately. We have a wonderful community but, through no fault of one individual or group but the aggregate effect of our community, our youth are stressed out. Suicide and depression rates are out of bracket. We have an opportunity to lead through thoughtful education and experience programs to help and to adjust our culture to a more healthy norm.

218. Senior activities need to be located near/in their residences; youth activities AT the school site is best for safety and parents; drop in/pick up sports/clubs for kids; Retirees free tutoring for kids; Start catalog of online courses development/recordings;

219. Senior 'play' parks such as are being built in Brazil.

220. Senior Wellness Center to replace PageMill Y and Betty Wright Swim Center.

221. Service projects to learn about and maintain ecological properties. Could also apply to scout troops.

222. Singles.
223. skate boarding lessons, robotics/coding
224. skate parks, frisbee golf
225. skateboard ramps, newer playstructures with climbing walls and more interesting play ideas
226. Small community garden beds at schools to be assigned to individual families of children attending that school. regular school gardens put too much work on the teacher, and miss prime gardening time in summer
227. soccer is extremely popular in Palo Alto. We need more and better soccer fields. Cubberley fields are a great location, but the fields are of low quality
228. Social skills classes
229. Solutions to the high cost of housing (for low income residents)
230. Some Accessible trails and easy reached nature immersion
231. Some indoor play facilities for rainy weather
232. Spanish for gringos.
233. special needs communities - classes, trainings, education, vocational training, independent living skills classes ..... anything would be needed, better yet - not just classes for high functioning special needs group, but please have something for lower functioning populations - both adults and youth and children - and include them.
234. Special Olympics type of sports.
235. Table tennis tournaments and drop in sessions that are mutigenerational
236. Tai chi
237. Tai chi in parks for seniors. Would like to see more programs for low income residents and people with disabilities, although I don't have specific ideas.
238. Teach gardening, nutrition, simple budgeting
239. teach small business skills
240. Teen center! Recreate, read, gather--minimum supervision (college-aged?) afterschool and weekend time.
241. Teen offerings
242. tennis courts service all these communities, esp with new markings for youth-based activities.
243. Tennis engages all age groups, courts are in steady demand
244. Tennis is an inclusive sport for all ages. Tennis has been right-sized for kids and seniors. USTA NorCal is an active supporter of community initiaatives and must be taken advantage; local corporations has large tennis-playing community. Meeting their demands will open more corporate-community outreach initiatives!
245. The city should certainly at least help fund a new warm-water indoor pool for people with arthritis and other such ailments.
246. The community would benefit by providing more areas for dogs and their owners to enjoy outdoor time and allow dogs to roam off-leash which greatly improves their overall happiness and physical well-being. Other communities around the bay area have many areas including open spaces, preserves and community parks for dogs to come with leash and off-leash.
247. the cops in other city told their homeless to come to Palo Alto. we are asking for trouble since we have the reputation to take care of the homeless.
248. The teens in this community have too much pressure and not enough leisure and recreation. There are few options for teens to find places to be active in a non-stress/competitive way. The middle school after school athletic programs fill too quickly, so many that would like to participate, can not. Also, for high school students, if they are not top athletes, there are few city sponsored programs to support informal recreation and fitness in a setting that welcomes and supports them. (And for those that do exist, they are located in South Palo Alto at Cubberly without great transportation by shuttle. Teens are left to fend for themselves, and fall through the cracks if they are not "exceptional" at so many things!

249. The youth in the south end of PA have limited space they can call their own. A place to "hang." The north end has University Ave, which acts as a place to meet and a place to "feel" unsupervised. Nothing like that in the south end. There seems to me to be a need.

250. There are a lot of old, Chinese people who seem to love Tai Chi and mah jong- would be nice for them to have groups or classes.

251. There are definitely not enough activities for low-income or senior residents. Providing those will provide an opportunity to connect them with other services as well. Always good to provide teenagers and young adults with ways to disperse their energy, before it gets channeled into the wrong activities

252. There are lots of programs to support elementary school aged kids in exercise. But the options are more limited as kids get older. This is an area of opportunity.

253. There's a need for more activities/programs geared toward ages 12-18.

254. There's not much to do in Palo Alto if you're a teen or young adult.

255. These age groups needs cool, constructive places to connect with each other.

256. too much focus on kids

257. Transportation to parks and open spaces.

258. Ultimate Frisbee or Soccer Class with a drop-in fee like the Zumba and Fitness classes. The idea is that the city would provide an organizer and a place for pickup games to occur. Participants could show up on any given scheduled day and take part in a pickup game. The cost per game/session could be around $10 and participants could use a punch card or pay per session (like other city exercise classes). The key to success for this idea would be to start with a core group of people who are committed to attending and to have the pickup games be at convenient times (say start between 8 and 9 on a weeknight or even try Friday or Saturday evenings). I (Daria Walsh) would be willing to try to get a core group of adults to start this sort of class/activity. A class like this would benefit adult working Palo Altans.

259. Volunteer opportunities

260. Warm water pool

261. water activities/fountains for children and low income kids in the summer. Food truck night where many trucks come at once to draw families to the park. More seating for picnics and eating. Free wifi with tables with electrical outlets to draw teens and adults to the park. Yoga and Tai Chi classes for seniors. Other cultural festivals and/or exhibits

262. We could always do more, but it seems to me there is something available for all of the above groups.
263. We have great activities in Palo Alto. We are very lucky! I don't think this is our issue. Making our public park areas better: healthy snacks for sale, cleaner bathrooms, expanding Little League Field and keeping dogs outside of public parks would be my priority.

264. We need places for kids to play and hang out. Some of the boys here want to build places to jump their bikes, but the city keeps plowing them down. Same with the "tree" fort they built. Where can boys be boys? This happened in Bol Park. Kids need places for unstructured play outside. This should happen within Palo Alto neighborhoods, and not just at places too far away like Foothill Park.

265. We really need better & longer after-school sports. I'd like to see middle schools offer 12 week programs, not 8 weeks. And programs should NOT be limited to 20 kids! they were sold out by 8:03am. That's CRAZY. Any kid that wants to play after school sports should be able to!!

266. Wellness and exercise

267. Wildlife education programs for city kids.

268. Would like to see space made available for acoustic music jams. For families and seniors.

269. Would love to see activities for local singles - a demographic that is often overlooked...

270. Your survey does a good job incorporating the questions you need input on to make a strong, community-oriented master plan. Parks/rec should be easily accessible to all, especially the disabled.
### Survey Summary Attachment: Tags and Categories of Open Ended Responses

**Maintain or reduce what we already have**

- less sports: 5
- less dog space / more dog rspr: 13
- less lighting: 1
- fewer / fewer paved trails: 2
- don't build / add things: 8
- maintain / fix what we have: 28

Total: 57

**Improving existing spaces**

- more security / safety: 14
- shade: 4
- seating: 6
- more lighting: 14
- make it cleaner: 10
- better grass / turf: 7
- better scheduling / permits: 5
- art: 2
- bathroom: 14
- parking / transit / access: 13

Total: 89

**General support / love**

- more general sports: 10
- more bike things (trails, racks, etc): 14
- expand / improve pool / pool hour: 18
- more programming: 8
- ping pong: 8
- more soccer: 4
- maintain / improve tennis: 12
- support little league / baseball: 19
- camping: 2

Total: 95

**More / improved athletics and activities**

- social gatherings / venues: 13
- sports complex / rec facilities: 6
- teen / youth / playground space: 18
- more dog space / amenities: 50
- more / maintain natural areas: 41
- more / better gardens: 8
- more / improved / accessible trails: 9

Total: 145

**More / improved venues**

- comments re: survey too long: 25
- survey not good: 4
- survey is good: 5

Total: 34

**misc.**

- keep foothills / P&R exclusive: 12
- allow non-res at foothills: 13
- exclusivity: 25

Total: 130

**general suggestions**

- keep foothills / P&R exclusive: 12
- allow non-res at foothills: 13
- exclusivity: 25

Total: 130

**support little league / baseball**

- I <3 parks: 23
- I liked the plans: 3
- I <3 PA: 11

Total: 79

**comments re: survey**

- survey too long: 25
- survey not good: 4
- survey is good: 5

Total: 34

- thanks: 42

Total: 79