



Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District

Chapter 5

Community Input

Chapter 5 – Section 1

Community Input

5.1.1 Introduction

This section summarizes the input received from the community. The identification of the park and recreation needs occurred through input from individuals and local user groups and the District survey results.

5.1.2 Input from Individuals and Local User Groups

The Board of Directors convened a series of meetings engaging the neighbors around each of the Districts parks in 2012. The information gained during these meetings was utilized as the foundation for the development of the District Survey. These meetings were held to determine the community's perceived park improvement needs. The resultant list of needs was used as the basis for the development of a community survey.

As a result of the very positive reception to the meetings held in each of the parks, the Board decided to establish five Park Advisory Committees to represent the District parks:

1. Bohemian Park
2. Seely Park
3. Bellview and Babcock Parks
4. Cottage Park and Creekside Nature Area
5. Howe and Santa Anita Parks

Each Park Advisory Committee is headed by a District Board member. These meetings provide the Board with the opportunity to meet with the neighbors, provide security reports, update the community on the progress made on the park improvements, as well as secure up-to-date feedback and suggestions for future programs and park improvements from the community.

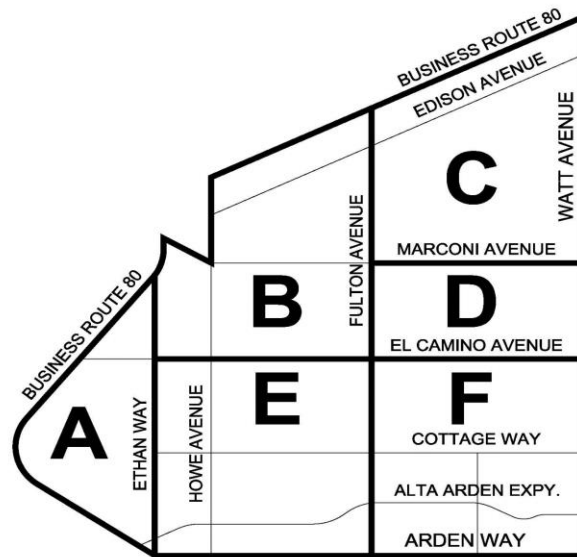
In addition to the Park Advisory Committee meetings in the parks, the District encourages input during their monthly Board meetings and via email, web site and telephone calls. All of the input received has been and will continue to be incorporated into this Master Plan. The Board will review the Master Plan on a yearly basis and incorporate into it all of the feedback received during the year, as appropriate and needed. In this way the Master Plan will always be current and not need a major update.

5.1.3 Summary of District Survey Results

As part of the Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District's update to its Strategic and Master Plan a survey was created to solicit feedback and direction from the community. The survey utilized input received from the community during a series of meetings conducted in 2012 in each of the District's parks, conducted by the District's Board of Directors. These meetings were held to determine the community's perceived park improvement needs. The resultant list of needs was used as the basis for the development of a community survey.

The District opted to utilize an online survey due to ease of access and ability to automatically tabulate and compile data. The District also distributed hardcopy surveys at the Conzelmann Community Center and upon request. The survey was advertised on the District's webpage, calendar and spring/summer activity guide, at community events, and public meetings. Postcards with information on where and how to take the survey and the location and time of public meetings were circulated at the District's community centers, local neighborhoods and apartment complexes, and in-person in Howe and Cottage Park. In addition a survey control group was conducted. The District was split into 6 sections and 10 hardcopy surveys were submitted to random residences within those sections with pre-paid return envelopes. After months of distribution and advertising, the District received 188 completed surveys (including the survey control group) and 52 partial surveys.

The District also conducted an apartment survey control group. Like the residence control group, the District *was* split into 6 sections and 1 hardcopy survey with a prepaid envelope was delivered to 5 apartment complex managers. The apartment complexes were randomly chosen. Responses were tabulated. See Appendix 5-1 for complete survey results.



5.1.3.1 Characteristics of the Survey Respondents

- 1 Frequent park users, defined as using parks 4 times monthly or more, comprised nearly half of respondents, 49%.
- 2 Nearly two-thirds of the respondents have lived in the District for more than two years.
- 3 Two-thirds of the survey respondents were female, while barely over one-third were male.
- 4 More than one-third of the respondents were between 35-54 years of age.
- 5 Exactly half the respondents were ages 55 and over.
- 6 The greatest percentage of respondents were couples with children, 39.4%.
- 7 The second greatest percentage of respondents were couples with no children, 29.7%.

- 8 The third greatest percentage of respondents were single with no children, 18.9%.
- 9 The smallest percentage of respondents were single with children, 12%.
- 10 Homeowners consisted of 84.2% of the respondents, while making up only 30.7% of the District.
- 11 Regarding ethnicity or race, 76.7% of the respondents identified themselves as Caucasian, 9.3% as Hispanic/Latin American, 4.1% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2.3% African-American, 1.7% Native American, and 5.8% other, which includes racially diverse, mix of Caucasian/Asian/Hispanic, or European heritage.

Survey respondents were predominantly couples with children, residents of the District for more than two years, frequent park users, and homeowners. Those that chose not to respond tended to be less invested in the community. As a consequence this part of the community may be underrepresented. In an effort to insure full community representation, we conducted a random door to door solicitation of responses through a cross-section of the District. Of the mailed in survey responses 84% were homeowners, in contrast to 16% who were renters. A neighborhood breakdown is indicated in Table 2.12 of Section 2.

There have been successive waves of immigration, such as Latino, Ukrainian, Hmong and Middle Eastern. This has created some degree of a language barrier. Within the four elementary schools in the district, students speak well over a dozen languages. Between 2012 and 2017 the use of Arabic and Farsi (Persian) languages has been on the rise, Spanish was rising but has recently fallen, Hmong is on the rise, and Russian speaking households remain steady in one school, falling in another, and rising in yet another.

These changing demographics were taken into consideration in the development of the survey in an effort to gauge the impact on recreation services and park facilities desired. Demographic shifts, as reflected in languages spoken in local schools, are indicated in Appendix 5-2.

As if demographic shifts were not impactful enough, homelessness in the district also has been reflected in school homeless data as shown in Appendix 5-3. Additional socioeconomic factors considered are shown in Appendix 5-4 (socioeconomically disadvantaged students), and Appendix 5-5, a Sacramento Bee article describing poverty in Arden Arcade.

In preparation for the survey, staff could foresee that cultural differences could have an impact in survey responses and tried to address these factors through careful wording of the survey. Surveys were translated into and printed in Spanish, the largest used foreign language in the district.

Practical constraints on universal survey outreach necessarily skews the overall survey results. However, efforts to reach the disenfranchised segments of our community were taken through the distribution of random surveys. Comparison

of the results of the random survey to the general survey does not indicate an appreciable difference.

5.1.3.2 Survey Responses Regarding General District Performance

The vast majority of single family residents and apartment residents alike rate the District’s current overall performance as good. The highest possible rating would be ‘excellent’, which 7.7% of the respondents reported.

5.1.3.3 Improvements Suggested by Survey Respondents

The following is a list of suggested improvements as proposed by residents during the Meetings in the Park series. The survey results are districtwide and listed in order of support.

Table 5.1 Improvements Suggested by Survey Respondents				
Type of Improvement	Support	No Opinion	Do Not Support	Responses
More Benches throughout Parks	72.2%	24.7%	3.2%	158
Walking Path Fitness Stations	71.6%	23.2%	5.2%	155
Shade Canopy over Play Equipment	67.5%	24.7%	7.8%	154
More Picnic Tables throughout Parks	64.2%	25.8%	9.9%	151
Dog Park Improvements	63.9%	31.3%	4.8%	147
Basketball Courts	62.4%	26.2%	11.4%	149
Splash Park/Water Feature	61.1%	26.1%	12.7%	157
Demonstration Garden	60.1%	30.1%	9.8%	143
Performing Arts Stage (Howe)	50.7%	37.5%	11.8%	152
Skate Park (Howe)	36.1%	32.0%	32.0%	147
Synthetic Turf Sports Field	28.9%	44.3%	26.8%	149
Youth BMX (Bicycle Motocross) Short Course	27.6%	37.5%	34.9%	152

5.1.3.4 Findings Regarding District Parks, Facilities, and Their Users

Babcock Park

- a. A majority of survey respondents reported never using Babcock Park, compared to those who reported using it frequently, occasionally, or infrequently. Note: Babcock Park is located within the City of Sacramento. It is owned and maintained by the Twin Rivers Unified School District.

Bellview Park

- a. A majority of survey respondents reported never using Bellview Park compared to those reporting using it frequently, occasionally, or infrequently.
- b. Survey respondents ranked these needs in priority order for Bellview Park:
 1. Picnic shelter.
 2. Permanent restroom
 3. More benches throughout the park
 4. More picnic tables throughout the park
 5. Increasing the size and improving the quality of the basketball court

Bohemian Park

- a. A majority of survey respondents reported never using Bohemian Park as opposed to using it frequently, occasionally, or infrequently.
- b. Survey respondents ranked these needs in priority order for Bohemian Park:
 1. Permanent restroom
 2. Dog park
 3. More picnic tables throughout the park
 4. Community garden
 5. More benches throughout the park
 6. Community center
 7. Relocation of the basketball courts

Cottage Park

- a. A majority of survey respondents reported using Cottage Park frequently, occasionally, or infrequently as opposed to never using it.
- b. Survey respondents ranked these needs in priority order for Cottage Park:
 1. Park frontage and parking
 2. Community Center upgrades
 3. Exterior bathroom upgrades
 4. Bicycle and pedestrian pathway lighting
 5. More lights
 6. Replace remaining asphalt walkway with concrete
 7. Picnic shelter
 8. More benches and picnic tables throughout the park, as well as fitness trail stations, were also noted needs.

Cottage Pool

- a. Slightly more survey respondents reported using Cottage Pool frequently, occasionally, or infrequently as opposed to never using it.
- b. Survey respondents ranked these needs in priority order for Cottage Pool:
 1. Interior bathroom updates
 2. Additional shade canopies
 3. Pool renovation, slide, diving boards, and swim lanes
 4. Pool complex expansion
 5. More shaded sitting areas
 6. A toddler pool
 7. Pool renovation and improved access
 8. Lap pool
 9. Splash-park was also noted.

Creekside Nature Area

- a. A majority of survey respondents reported never using Creekside Nature Area compared to those using it frequently, occasionally, or infrequently.
- b. An information kiosk was the only need listed for the Creekside Nature Area.

Howe Park

- a. Howe Park was identified the most frequently used park in the District.
- b. Vastly more survey respondents reported using Howe Park frequently, occasionally, or infrequently as opposed to never using it.
- c. Survey respondents ranked these needs in priority order for Howe Park:
 1. A performing arts stage
 2. Dog park improvements
 3. More park benches throughout the park
 4. A splash park

5. More lighting
6. Shade canopies over play equipment
7. More picnic tables through the park
8. Basketball court
9. Band shell
10. Walking path fitness stations and a skate park were also noted as needs.

Howe Community Center

- a. A majority of survey respondents reported using Howe Community Center frequently, occasionally, or infrequently as opposed to never using it.

Santa Anita Park

- a. A majority of survey respondents reported using Santa Anita Park frequently, occasionally, or infrequently as opposed to never using it.
- b. Survey respondents ranked these needs in priority order for Santa Anita Park:
 1. Drinking fountains
 2. More benches throughout the park
 3. More lights
 4. Restroom near Bell Street
 5. More picnic tables throughout the park
 6. Picnic shelter near Bell Street

Seely Park

- a. A majority of survey respondents reported using Seely Park frequently, occasionally, or infrequently as opposed to never using it.
- b. Survey respondents ranked these needs in priority order for Seely Park:
 1. Walkway over the Pope Avenue drainage ditch
 2. Shade canopies over play areas
 3. More picnic tables throughout the park
 4. More benches throughout the park

5.1.3.5 Urban Forest Survey Findings

- a. Nearly 60% of respondents indicated that urban forest bio-diversity is very important to them.
- b. Nearly 75% of respondents indicated that it is very important to maintain trees to optimize the environmental benefits of air quality, carbon storage, air particulate removal, water quality improvement, erosion reduction, and saving energy by shading buildings.
- c. 62% of respondents indicated that it is very important to implement Good Neighbor Actions like pruning trees on park property away from neighboring fences and managing insect disease and pest problems.
- d. More than two-thirds of respondents indicated that it is very important to undertake proactive routine maintenance for trees.
- e. Reactive infrastructure management, such as work performed to protect buildings, hardscape, and people, is deemed very important to 60% of respondents.
- f. Native species representation, which requires less money to maintain over time, is deemed very important to nearly half the respondents.
- g. Compliance with ordinances that govern protected tree species, removal of trees, and pruning of trees over roadways and near utility lines, are deemed very important to nearly half the respondents.
- h. Property value enhancement by having large trees is deemed very important to 56% of the respondents.

- i. 59% of respondents indicated that it is very important to maintain trees in the urban forest for tree safety.
- j. Respondents ranked the priorities for the District’s urban forest, from highest to lowest, as:
 1. Biodiversity
 2. Safety
 3. Proactive Maintenance
 4. Good Neighbor Actions
 5. Property Value Enhancement
 6. Environmental Benefits
 7. Native Species Representation
 8. Reactive Infrastructure Management
 9. Ordinance Compliance.

5.1.3.6 Survey Responses Regarding Park and Facility Safety

The survey presented three questions concerning park safety: personal safety at night, personal safety during daytime, and personal safety while using District buildings. These were the responses:

Table 5.2 General Park Safety Survey Results Satisfaction with Park Safety					
	High	Medium	Low	No Opinion	# Responses
Personal Safety at Night	10.4%	21.4%	55.5%	12.7%	173
	18	37	96	22	
Personal Safety During Daytime	35.3%	48.8%	11.2%	4.7%	170
	60	83	19	8	
Personal Safety while using District Buildings	31.5%	35.2%	5.5%	27.9%	165
	52	58	9	46	