

Kenilworth Revitalization Project Community Input Summary

Outreach from September - November 2022



About Kenilworth Revitalization Project

Kenilworth is the largest community park serving the mid-town area and is in need of overall site improvements to better serve the community's growing needs. Improvements that will be addressed through this project may include but are not limited to reimagined play spaces, improved access, drainage enhancements, tree work, park amenities, and pathway repairs.

The project kicked off in Fall 2022 and is anticipated to run through 2023 with the goal to bring a design proposal to City Council for approval in Winter 2023. A detailed timeline for the project is featured on the right.

Overview of Community Outreach from September – November 2022

The City of Petaluma released a community-wide survey to gather broad community input on current concerns and ideas for the future of the park. The survey was distributed throughout the Petaluma community from September through November. It was promoted through multiple city channels including the weekly community update email, social media accounts, and postcards were mailed to neighborhoods near the park and distributed at the library and at other local organizations.

On October 20, 2022 Petaluma Parks and Recreation Department conducted a neighborhood workshop with the goal of hearing from residents about their impressions of Kenilworth Park, insights about how they use City parks, and ideas for design elements they would like to see incorporated into the Revitalization Project.

This summary offers high-level key findings and informed next steps as well as a detailed analysis of input gained through the Neighborhood Workshop and Community Survey. The information and insights gathered will be used to help select a design firm that is best suited to work on the Kenilworth Park Revitalization Project. It will also inform the design direction that the selected firm will pursue.

To learn more about this project visit: www.cityofpetaluma.org/kenilworthpark



High-Level Key Learnings:

- The playground is the primary area of interest and most popular attraction to the park
- There is a strong desire to preserve and expand the shady areas through landscaping and built structures (e.g. trees and pavilion)
- It is important that natural aspects are incorporated into the design of the park
- It is important that creative play areas, featuring art and education, are integrated into the playground
- There is a strong desire for not only a beautiful, clean, and safe park, but also one that has lots of activities and community events
- There is a strong desire for the library to be better connected to the park through both physical design and events and programming
- It is important that once the park is updated there is a plan for ongoing maintenance
- There are concerns about traffic so close to the park and safety for kids and pets
- There are concerns about safety due to unsheltered population gathering in the park and the discovery of drug paraphernalia

How the park should feel:

- Accessible and welcoming to all
- Unique, creative, artistic
- Native, natural, local
- Safe, clean, shielded from traffic and noise
- Respectful, inclusive, multigenerational
- Educational
- Connected to Library

What the park should offer:

- Place for people of all ages to gather and play
- Space for larger community events and small family/friend events
- More robust Teen Center programming
- Classes of all types and for all ages such as fitness, wellness, arts and crafts, life skills, healthcare
- Events large and small e.g. storytime, movie screenings, live music, farmers market, and holiday fairs
- Equipment and space for sports and exercise
- Interactive art and play structures
- Restrooms
- Performance space
- Educational opportunities – local history, plants and biology, life-skills training
- Beautiful garden spaces for humans and habitats for animals
- Shaded spaces for relaxation
- Drought-tolerant/native landscaping

Informed Next Steps:

- Design consultant selection will target the following experience:
 - Playground design
 - Integrating interactive and educational play
 - Use of natural materials in past work
 - Integrating public art in the design of playgrounds
 - Designing parks and playgrounds that have a thematic concept
 - Designing spaces for events and activities within parks
- Engage with COTS and the Downtown Street Team so this process can engage and identify needs of the unsheltered community
- Parks and Recreation Department to discuss Park maintenance needs and how to be proactive
- Explore partnership with the Petaluma Library and surrounding neighborhood services and organizations

The following is a detailed summary of input gained through both the neighborhood workshop and community-wide survey.

Neighborhood Workshop

On Thursday, October 20, 2022 a neighborhood workshop was held at Kenilworth Park and Teen Center from 5:30 PM -8:00 PM. The workshop aimed to gain a better understanding of which experiences community members feel would best create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive space that serves the community's growing needs. The event was advertised in various ways including through the city's community update email, social media channels including NextDoor, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and through Digital Media Kits that were provided to community partners to help them spread the word through their social media channels and networks. All communications were distributed in both Spanish and English and the workshop featured Spanish interpretation partners for community members who prefer to communicate in Spanish. Twenty-five community members attended the event and zero requested Spanish translation.



Community members began to gather between 5:30-6:00 and enjoyed a family-style Italian dinner together which was provided to all attendees of the event. Following dinner Director of Parks and Recreation Drew Halter opened the workshop with a warm introduction and an explanation of the Kenilworth Rehabilitation Project covering details about the project including phases, timeline, and scope of work to set community expectations. Following

Drew's presentation, engagement consultant Christine Walker, introduced the agenda for the evening. The first portion of the evening was broken into four rounds of small group conversations covering the following questions:

Round 1. Desired Park Experiences and Activities

What experiences and activities do you want to enjoy at Kenilworth Park now or in the future? Consider who the park should serve and what their needs are.

Round 2. Education and Events

How can education and events contribute to and enhance the desired experience?

Round 3. Health and Wellness

How can health and wellness contribute to and enhance the desired experience?

Round 4 Art and Nature

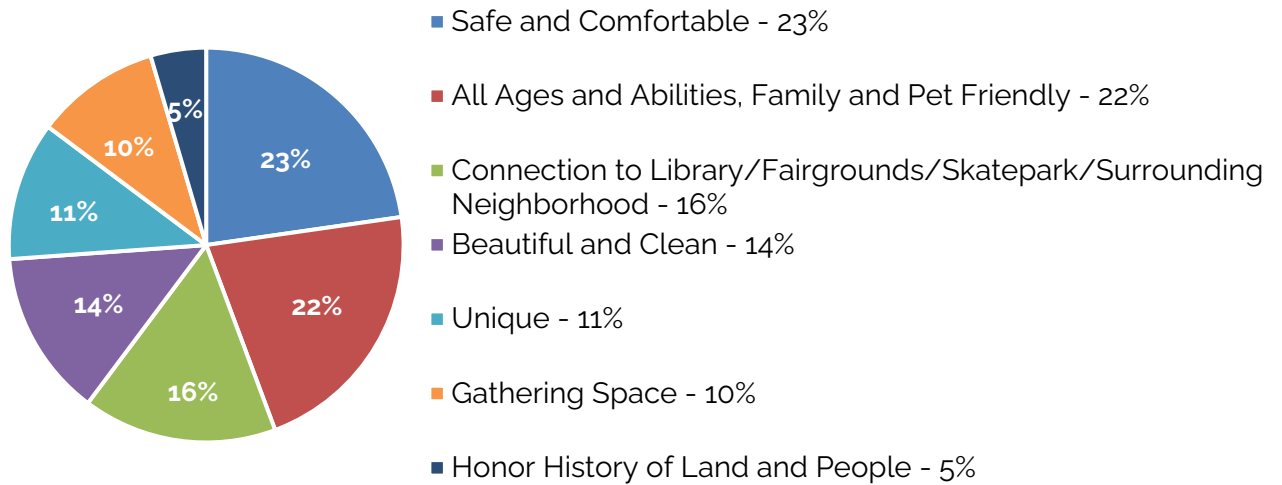
How can art and nature contribute to and enhance the desired experience?

Attendees gathered in random groups of 3-6 people, discussed their ideas and summarized them on post-it notes. Following the conversation, the post-it notes were posted on the wall along with all other groups. Attendees switched tables to encourage new groups to form, this repeated for all 4 rounds. Following the small group discussion rounds, all attendees came together and Drew Halter and consultant Christine Walker facilitated a large group discussion.

The insights gathered from the small and large group conversations and post-its have been organized into the following Key Themes - Ideas for Park: Characteristics, Classes, Equipment and Features, Events and Activities, and Landscaping. Please note that post-it notes were organized into whichever theme was applicable, resulting in some post-it notes being organized into multiple themes. The themes are summarized below. To view the full organization of post-it notes, as well as, the process of how community conversations and post-its were organized [read this document](#).

Ideas for Park Characteristics

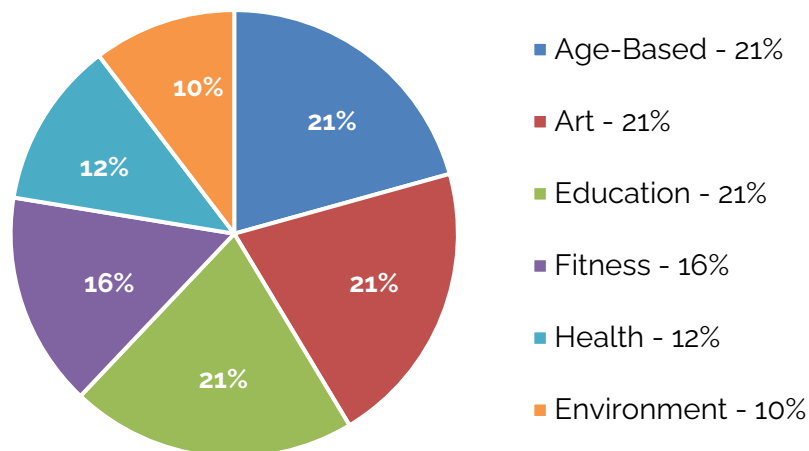
Key characteristics can be organized into the following categories in order from most frequently mentioned to least frequently mentioned:



Overall, attendees would like to see the park be a space that is safe, comfortable, and inclusive of all ages and abilities including families and pets. Attendees would like the park to be a beautiful and clean space that celebrates Petaluma's uniqueness. There is excitement around the potential to connect the park more intentionally, through design, events and activities, with the surrounding area including the Library, Fairgrounds, skatepark, and neighborhoods. The park should be a welcoming space that encourages people to gather and honors the history of the land and the people who came first.

Ideas for Park Classes

Ideas for classes at Kenilworth Park are organized into the following categories:

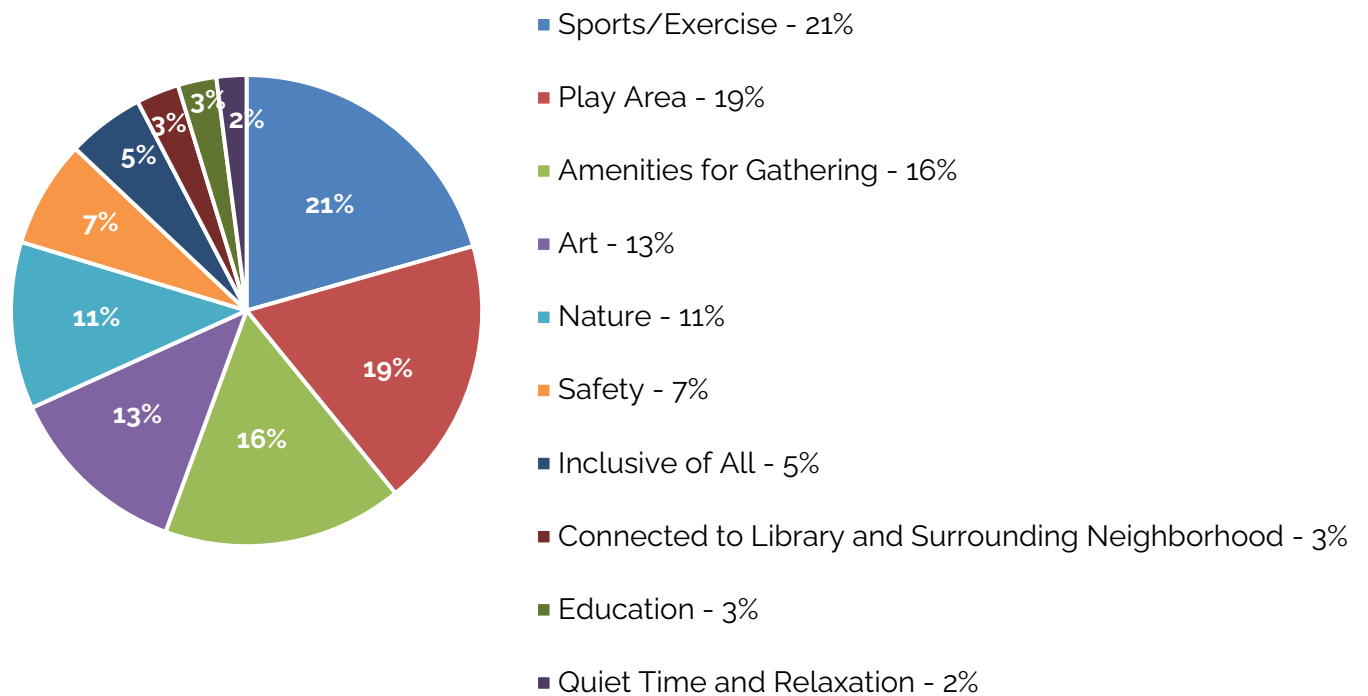


Age-based, art, and education classes were the top suggested ideas showing attendees' desire for Kenilworth Park to offer space for all generations to learn and be creative. A few attendee-suggested ideas for each of the categories are featured below:

- Age-Based Classes (toddler, youth, teen) including movement, fitness, and teen resume writing and professional skill building
- Art-Based Classes including ceramics, photography, drawing, holiday crafts, paint nights
- Education-Based Classes including homework help, language conversation, educational series
- Fitness-Based Classes including indoor/outdoor group fitness and yoga
- Health-Based Classes including CPR, nutrition, herbal clinics, and lifeguard training

Ideas for Park Equipment and Features

Ideas for park equipment and features were organized into the following categories:



Play areas, amenities for sports, gathering, and art were the top four categories of ideas for park equipment and features. Attendees offered many diverse ideas of what the play area could look like and offer including a preference towards natural play features that are inclusive of all and have art integrated into the design. Other ideas included sensory experiences like water or sand-based play, an arcade, and gymnastics bars.

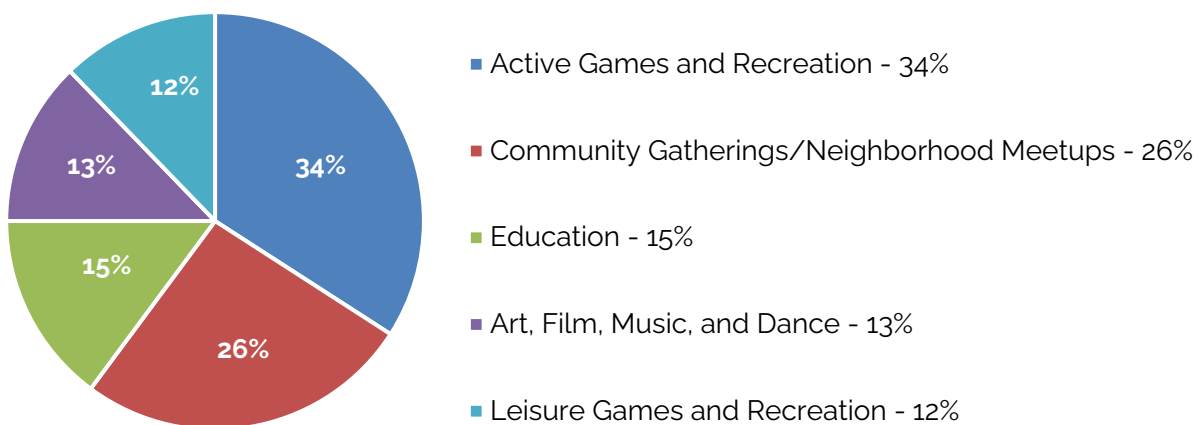
Amenities for gathering are important to attendees - there is a clear desire for the park to be a space where people can come together and enjoy each other's company. Ideas ranged and included BBQ pits picnic areas, shade, lighting, public restrooms, structures for weather protection, rental spaces, and an outdoor performance space.

Attendees would like to see sports such as basketball, lawn darts, chess, bocce ball, volleyball, and soccer available on site and ideally sports equipment to borrow and use as well. Connected to sports was the desire to see additional fitness opportunities including a walking trail, climbing structures, a natural obstacle course, and workout equipment.

There is a clear desire for art to be integrated into the park including interactive art, drawing spaces, a sculptural garden, and murals. Additionally, attendees would like to see safety integrated into the design of the park with ideas of a seat wall and natural barrier for enclosure and sound.

Ideas for Park Events & Activities

Ideas for park events and activities can be organized into the following categories:



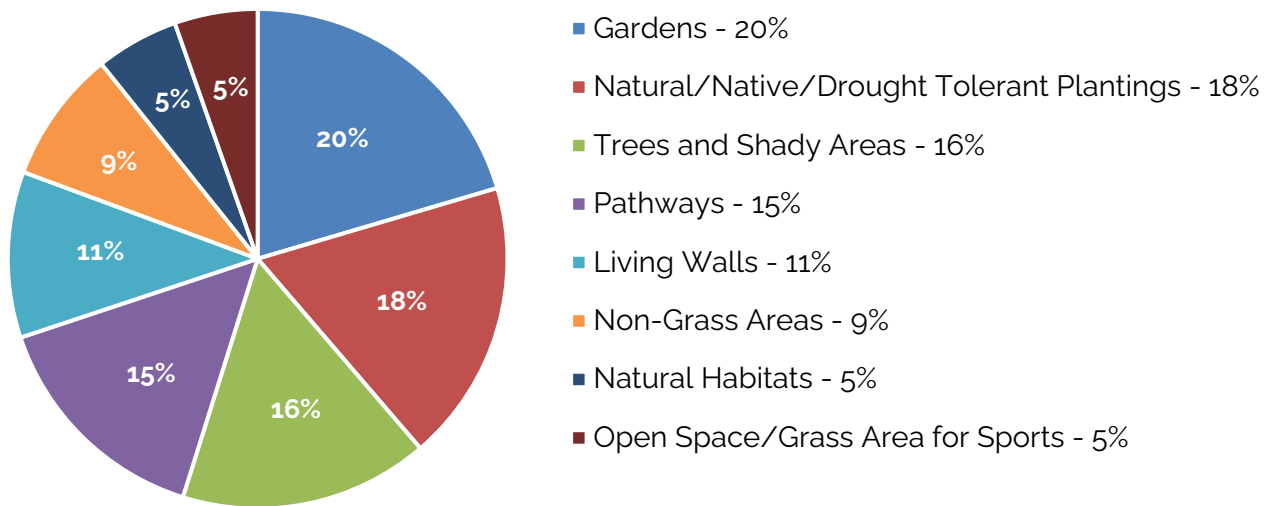
Attendees would like the park to remain a space for active play and should offer events and activities that get visitors up and moving. There is a strong desire for the park to feature a traditional playground as well as space for sports such as basketball, volleyball, or soccer, space for walking.

There is strong desire to see events and activities that encourage the community to come together and gather. There were diverse ideas surrounding what these spaces could look like including Picnics, Parades, Holiday Fair, Multicultural Events, Live Action Role Play, Food Fair, Farmer's Market. There was also a strong desire from attendees to see a partnership with the Petaluma Library formed so that events such as storytime, book clubs, and story walks can be available.

There is a desire to see events and activities that embrace education, art, film, music and dance with attendees offering ideas such as public art tours, scavenger hunts, educational lectures, and other various school activities. Space for leisure events and activities like drawing spaces, labyrinths, meditative spaces, and hammocks were also important to attendees.

Ideas for Park Landscaping

Park landscaping ideas were organized into the following categories:



It is clear attendees desire park landscaping to be functional and diverse. Overall, the park should have a natural feel and offer a variety of landscaped areas that have different looks and feels. Gardens were mentioned most frequently and included ideas such as a community garden, flower garden, and edible garden. Natural landscaping, drought tolerant plantings, and trees that offer shady areas are important to attendees. They would also like to see landscaping that is functional - creating pathways for walking and barriers for safety and enclosure from the street. Non-grass areas such as a playground and water activities were mentioned along with the desire for an open grass area for both active sports and relaxation.

Community Survey Summary

A community-wide survey was released in Fall 2022 to gather community input on current concerns and ideas for the future of the park. The survey was distributed throughout the Petaluma community from September through November. It was available in both Spanish and English and was promoted through multiple city channels including the weekly community update email, social media accounts, and postcards were mailed to neighborhoods near the park and distributed at the library and at other local organizations.

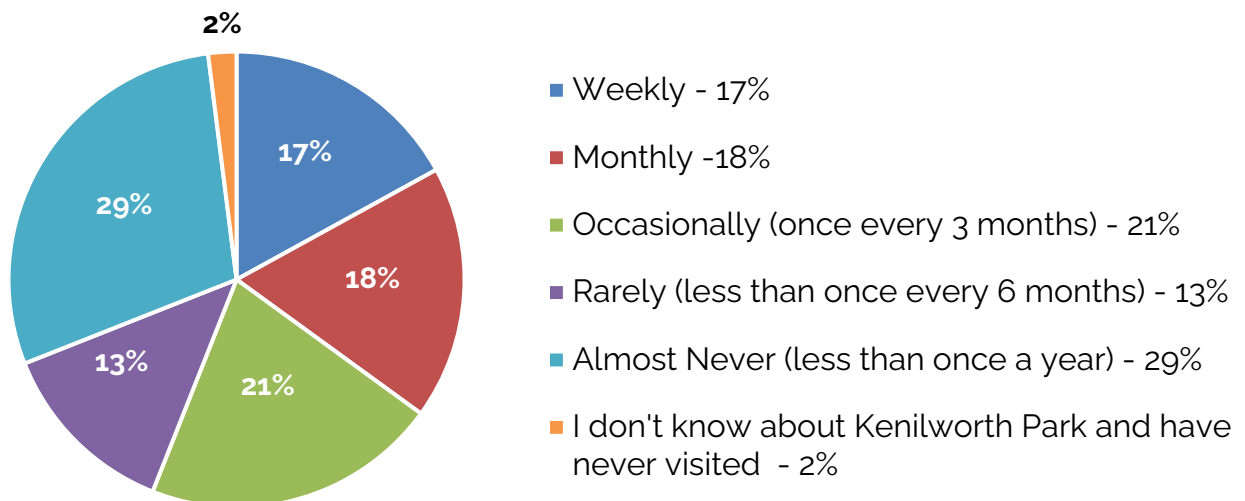
The survey posed 9 total questions and received 224 responses. Key learnings from the survey are featured below with a detailed summary and analysis of responses following,

Key Learnings:

- Over half of respondents visit Kenilworth Park 0-4 times a year
- Walking or driving are the main modes of transportation to the park
- The playground is the main attraction and biggest enjoyment of Kenilworth Park
- A lack of park amenities is the main barrier preventing folks from enjoying the park
- There is a strong desire to see natural features integrated into the new park design
- McNear Park in Petaluma is a top park that respondents enjoy with almost half of respondents mentioning they enjoy this neighborhood park
- Many respondents value trees and shade at a park and would like to see Kenilworth's shady areas expanded

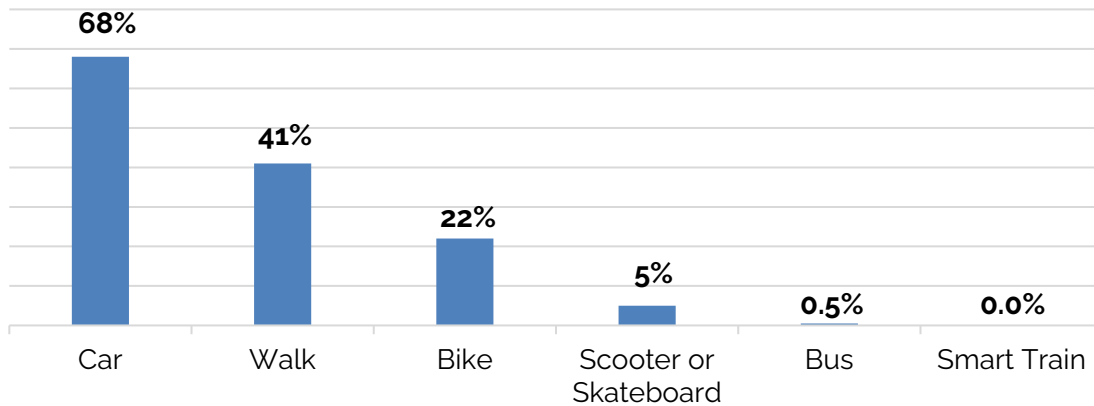
Detailed Summary and Analysis:

1. How often do you or your family visit Kenilworth Park? Please select one.



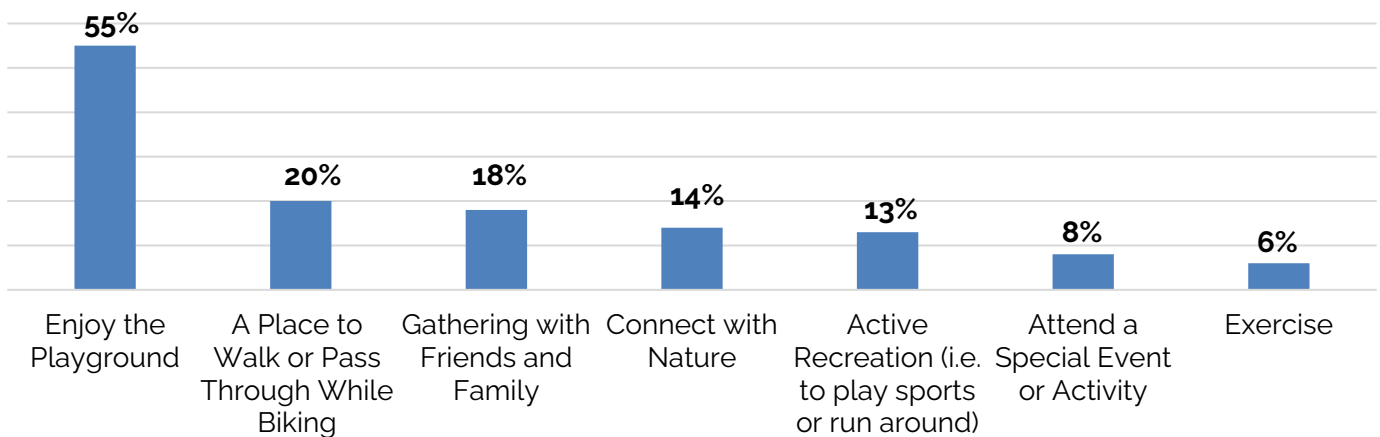
63% of respondents are visiting Kenilworth Park 0-4 times a year, which is not very often. This illuminates a need to dive deeper into the barriers that are causing such infrequent visits to the park.

2. How do you or your family get to Kenilworth Park? Select all that apply or tell us how you get to Kenilworth Park in 'Other.'



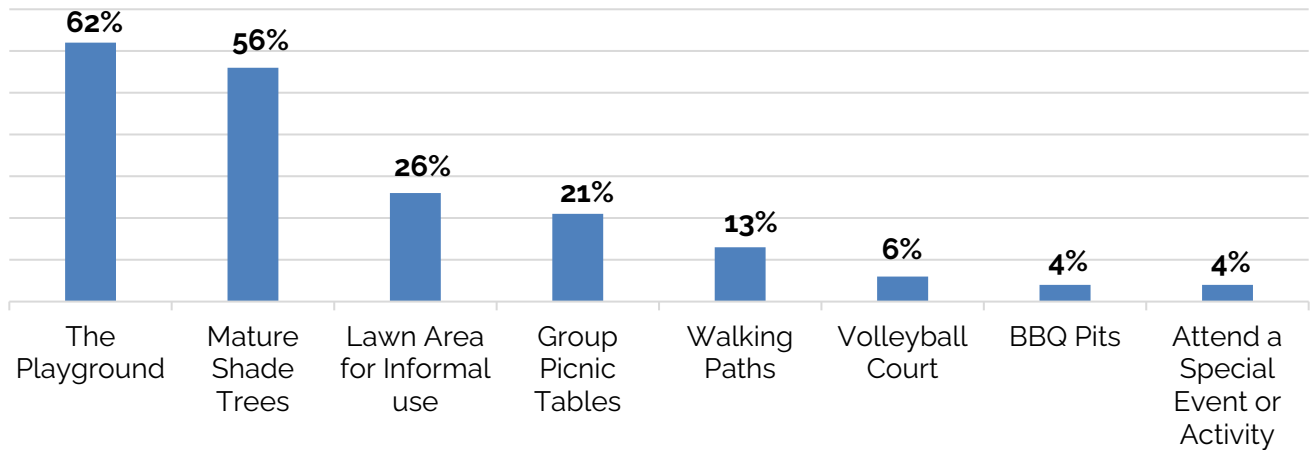
Overwhelming, driving a vehicle to Kenilworth Park is the main mode of transportation with over half of survey respondents mentioning they get to the park by vehicle. Walking was the second most popular method to get to the park with almost half of respondents reporting they walk. This illuminates the connection that neighbors within walking distance have with the park. Biking was the third most popular method with scootering or skateboarding following. Only one respondent reported taking the bus to the park and no one mentioned they have taken the Smart Train. This illuminates a need for a more integrated connection between the park and public transit.

3. Why do you most often visit Kenilworth Park? Select all that apply or write in your reason to visit Kenilworth Park in 'Other.'



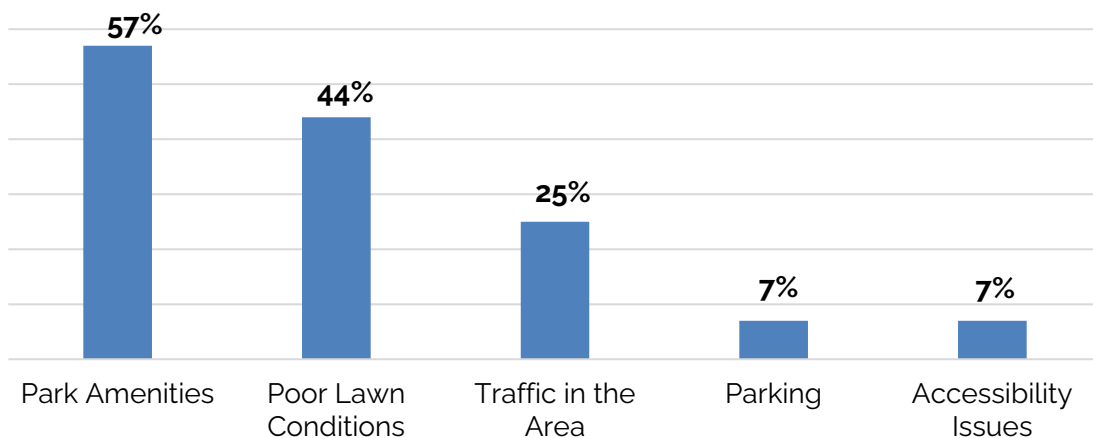
The playground is the top point of attraction to the park with over half of respondents mentioning this as a reason they most often visit the park. The park additionally is a place that many pass through while biking, illuminating the need for the space to offer shade and reprieve for those searching for rest. Gathering with friends and family was the third most popular reason that respondents visit the park with opportunities for connecting with nature and active play following.

4. What do you enjoy most about Kenilworth Park? Please select the top three things, or write in your favorite item we missed in 'Other.'



The playground is respondents most enjoyed aspect of the park, with the mature shade trees, lawn area, and group picnic tables all following. It is clear respondents enjoy that Kenilworth Park currently offers space to play, relax on the lawn or in the shade, and gather with friends and family – these aspects should be continued in the new park design.

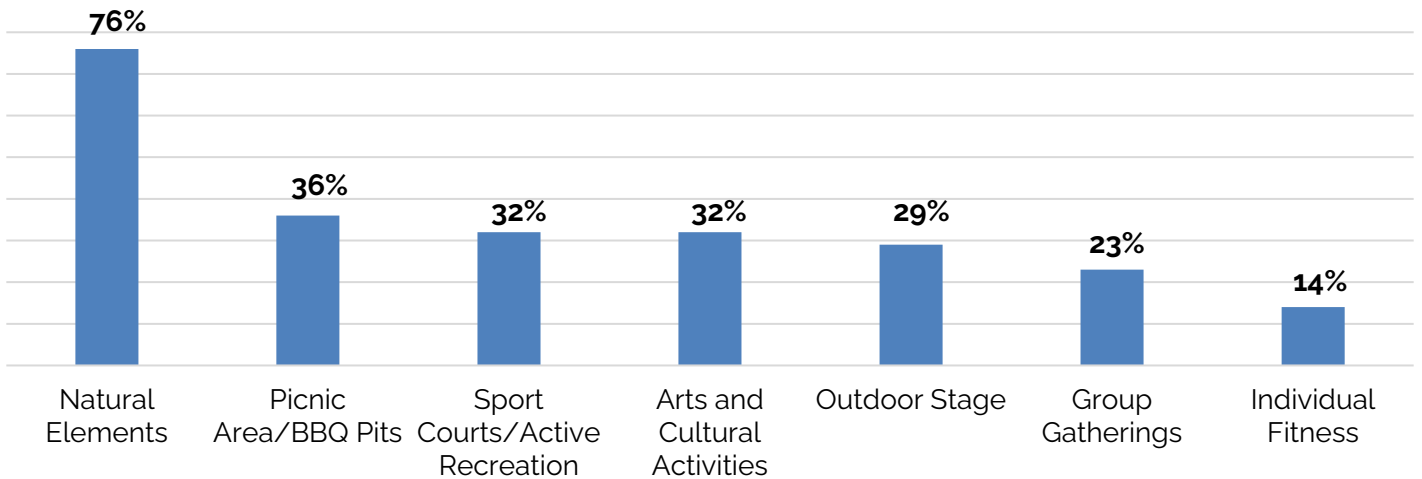
5. What are the barriers that prevent you from enjoying Kenilworth Park currently?



Park amenities are the main barrier that prevent respondents from currently enjoying the park with the poor lawn and traffic in the area coming in as the second and third top

reasons. Many respondents also mentioned the unhoused community as an additional barrier which illuminates an opportunity to provide direct services at the park and engage with the unhoused so that the park can truly be a space that is welcoming of all. Additionally, respondents mentioned that the park is boring, there is a lack of shade and overall safety concerns at the park due to surrounding traffic.

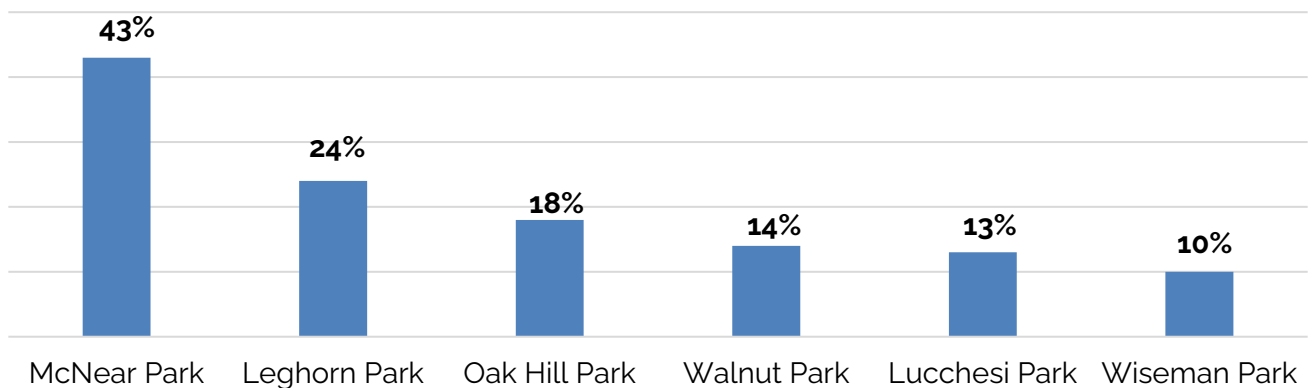
6. What new features would you like to see included in the park?



Natural elements are overwhelming the top desire for new features in the park. Additionally, features that encourage gathering, celebrate culture and creativity, and enable active recreation are desired to be included in the updated park design.

7. What are some neighborhood parks in Petaluma or surrounding areas that you enjoy? Please share what you enjoy about these parks. (Open response)

The following parks were mentioned by at least 10% of respondents.



Honorable mentions include: Helen Putnam Park, La Tercera Park, McDowell Park, Miracle League Park, Miwok Park, Westridge Park, Wickersham Park, Arroyo Park, and Meadow View Park.

Reasons for why respondents enjoy the above parks varied, however, the following themes were identified:

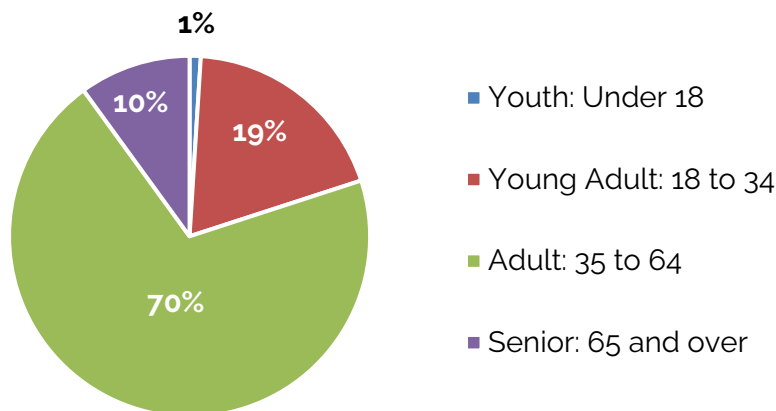
- Shade and Trees
- Playground
- Picnic Areas and Seating
- Courts and Fields for Sports
- Open Space and Grass
- Friendly for All Ages
- Clean and Well-Maintained
- Bathrooms Available

Shade and trees were the most frequently mentioned by respondents with playground coming in a close second and picnic and seating areas third most mentioned. As it is clear that the above elements are what attracts users to parks, these elements will be considered and prioritized as this process continues to unfold.

8. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experience with Kenilworth Park? (Open response)

153 respondents shared additional experiences with Kenilworth Park. The responses ranged in theme and sentiment. The responses are included in full at the end of this document.

9. To help us understand who this survey is reaching, please select your age group:



Almost 90% of responses came from folks ages 18 – 64. This identifies a need to more deeply connect with youth under 18 and Petaluma's aging elder population.

Full Open Responses: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experience with Kenilworth Park?

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| This park has so much potential, we never went when the kids were younger, it's a sad park. Please make a better park for midtown!!! |
| I enjoy seeing the birds there, especially the great blue heron. |
| It's dirty |

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| Safety is the #1 issue preventing us from using this park more |
| Please no more sand at the playground. This playground is very central to petaluma, so inevitably more than just children hang out at the park and end up leaving not-so-safe trash. Sponge turf flooring instead of sand or wood chips. Some shade would be great too. |
| Take advantage of its proximity to other community amenities: library, skate park, pool |
| The area needs to be sheltered from the busy traffic noise and traffic pollution on Payren and Washington and on all sides with a double row of trees and lots of gardens full of drought tolerant bushes, as in the garden by the front entrance to the library. |
| Glad to see this park will be updated. Rare that I would take the time to fill it this survey but this is exciting. If you build it, we will come! |
| Can sometimes have a lot of garbage. |
| Parking is not great. Does not look appealing for kids too old for playground. |
| The big holes (gopher holes) make it a bit treacherous to enjoy walking around Kenilworth right now. Perhaps install owl boxes, which has many benefits and might help take care of the gopher issue. It feels like there's a lot of potential for this park as most people don't use most of the space in there. Partially, I think it's because it feels so exposed to East Washington, which is a really big street, planting more trees to create a greenery buffer at the East Washington Street edge so that you're not looking at cars and they're not staring at you while they're stuck in traffic would be really nice I think. |
| This is the closest park to our house, so we really look forward to its rehabilitation! Right now, we walk further to other parks (Lucchesi, via the trail) because Kenilworth isn't always super appealing, which is a pity. Things we'd love to see: much better access for pedestrian/bike approaches. It's quite awkward right now that you have to walk all the way around the park to get to the playground/picnic tables via paved pathways. The playground completely floods pretty regularly in the winter, and can remain flooded for several days — this clearly needs attention. We'd love to see better pedestrian connections to the library. We like to do the library Book Walk, but once you've finished that, you're faced with a moonscape of gopher holes in order to reach any of the park amenities. And it's awkward accessing the park from the front of the library, too. Given that the park is bordered by some pretty high-traffic streets, it would be nice to have more buffering landscaping or pathways. We visit the park frequently on foot with young children, and it feels difficult to keep them safe from cars on the way there. It's nice having the mature trees near the playground, but the rest of the park could use more shade, especially shaded places to sit. Overall, midtown really needs a great, walkable, family-friendly park, and we hope Kenilworth can become that! |
| it's gross in its current state, and only usable for 2-5 year olds. |
| Dirty |
| We live in midtown and most often avoid Kenilworth even though it's only 2 blocks from our house due to the above reasons. We would absolutely use it weekly in combination with the library if it received some updates. |

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| Expand the garden in the back of the library, plant more trees, provide more shade |
| I only took my kids there years ago 1 time but drugs and homeless took over and was not a safe place for us |
| Shade and cleanliness would make it better. |
| The park always seems run down and in poor shape, it is also awkward to visit if you aren't close enough to walk or ride bikes there due to being in a high traffic area with limited parking. |
| It's run down. Lots of gopher holes, which makes unsafe to walk through. Rarely see people use it given its great location. |
| too much litter everywhere. please keep the shade trees and sand!!! |
| Some of the recent Petaluma park renovations have included play structures that are only geared towards the youngest children (under 8) (i.e., see Bond Park). Junior and high school kids would also like to play on structures, but they need to be designed for this older age group. Kenilworth Park's proximity to the library draws a wide range of ages. We would use this park a lot more if it had new play structures designed for older kids and if it did more to acknowledge its location next to the library. |
| I think it is important that this park include some artistic vision and something that makes it unique in some way from the other parks. So many people drive by this location that it would be nice if this can be more than just another newer version of a cookie cutter park. I'm excited to hear about the Art committee's involvement, I hope that helps make this project unique and practical for the community. |
| We need more sports in that area. We would like to see pickleball courts |
| It's a convenient location, but not very well maintained, there are weeds, and it doesn't feel safe to run around on the grass because of all the gopher holes, and there's no barrier tween the park and the street |
| I don't like the sand at Kenilworth park. But I love how close it is to the library. We often tie a library visit to a trip to the park. It would great to have some shady benches for kids/adults to read outdoors . |
| Please consider adding additional playground and park facilities at the fairgrounds site. One playground for midtown is not enough. |
| Also, could you connect the library somehow to the park/playground? Like an open-air library space? |
| We like the park my kids enjoy it but it's not are first option to go to because of the bad condition park is ; even though we live near the park. Looking forward for the new park! |
| The playground is just not safe being so close to the street. It does not take more than two seconds for a toddler to run to the street. Sadly, I see the new garden area virtually useless. |
| I live in Midtown and would love for this area to finally be improved!!! |
| M/a |
| It always seems dirty. Homeless people camp out there at times |

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| Please add more shade! There are so few shaded areas to go play during the day, and the play structure (plastic or wood or metal) gets so so hot in the sun all day. |
| We started going to this park less often because the sand was so dirty and sometimes there were active bee hives near the playground. We stopped going completely once the homeless people felt threatening and were hanging out inside the park and table areas. I heard drug use needles were found at the park once and I can't risk my children being near that especially running around in the sand. |
| I've been going to this park since I was a kid (late 80s). It used to be the hot spot for parks in Petaluma- many birthday parties, beautifully cared for green turf areas, families bbq'ing, mature shade trees were all a part of the appeal of the park. It seems like this park has gone by the wayside- lots of weeds popping up in the playground area, garbage and transients commonly use the area. I hope the focal point will include planning for the library ie: an outdoor stage/performance arts location for all weather (which could also be utilized for small events/gatherings) and would hopefully breathe some new life into a very underutilized area in my hometown. |
| The sand is the worst part. Kids don't want sand in their shoes and it's not safe to go shoe-less. |
| I would be great if there was a fence around the park to keep the little ones from getting too close to the street! |
| It would be great if there were benches and meandering paths to seamlessly connect to the library garden. I know my young kids would love to have a place nearby where they could practice riding their bikes safely. |
| The playground obviously needs a huge update, but the actual elements of the playground (monkey bars, slides, etc) make for a really fun time. Eliminate the sand and improve drainage on the playground. |
| Please preserve the shade trees and add more. |
| I feel generally unsafe at that park due to homeless in the area that hang near the library. The play structures are amazing. But the sand needs to go and should be replaced with recycled rubber turf. |
| We've visited the park by foot every week for 5 years. It is safe and fun for the kids. Some of the stories circulating on social media calling the park's safety into question seem less than credible. |
| Bring back the volleyball court! We never even used it but it was nice to see families enjoying that space, especially Latinx families. |
| Its just depressing and unattractive. Even My young children say what a bad park It is :(|
| Yuck |
| The playground feels too worn down. The volleyball court overgrown, the butterfly garden is nice but so small. I wish there was a fence or boundary along the busy payran street |
| We love the play structure and proximity to the library and McKinkey |

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| Homeless activity is what I associate most with this location, though I'm unsure how accurate an association that is. |
| I would love to see this area cleaned up and the drug addicts kept away. Even if it's turned into a fabulous park, I won't bring my kids there due to safety reasons. This area could use a wonderful and safe park! |
| My son liked the playground and I like the tables but there are tons of homeless people that sleep there all day and that makes me feel nervous |
| It would be nice to improve the play structure & add facilities. |
| Support the homeless because there are a lot don't just evacuate them... |
| I love that it's a space for people who are shelterless to relax, find shade, etc, and I wouldn't want them to lose that. At the same time, there's one place to hang out so it prevents families from using the space at the same time. I'd love to see a solution that expands the opportunities to use the space in different ways so that nobody is driven away. |
| I am happy to hear there are plans to improve this park. Out of all the parks in Petaluma this park is the least one that I visit with my 3 children and I always wished that it was better because of its location next to the library. I always thought this park had so much potential. It is hard because its a high traffic area and frankly because of the transient issue which leads into the park.The BBQs are way to close to the play structures. I think the teen center should also be updated as there are very few places for our young adults here in Petaluma. The main issue is that it's dirty and I have literally found needles in the sand and lots of garbage. |
| The sand is very dirty, it's the major deterrent for us. My kids have to change their clothes and take a bath every time we use the park. There isn't much shade, and it is often too hot to use the park. |
| Playground structure itself could use renovating or replacing. Thank you in advance for improving this important park! |
| My son had his birthday party there this year. It's a great spot with a nice picnic area! But we had to come early with gloves and bags in order to clean it ourselves before the party. The playground sand area has grass and weeds pushing through, plus more garbage. The kids kept tripping in the gopher holes. There's so much promise here and it just needs a bit of attention. The tables and play structures are great! |
| It's a sad and dreary park with way too much lawn. I rarely see anyone in it except for families with toddlers for the climbing play structures. |
| The play structure is outdated and needs to be replaced. The cement wall surrounding it is falling apart and creating a hazard for kids climbing on it. |
| The play structure is wonderful. Play structures these days are too modern and art based and kids get bored easily and don't have the wonderful options Kenilworth play structure does. I have 3 kids 11,6 and 1 and they all stay busy at Kenilworth Park for at least an hour |
| Overall it's an okay park but the sand and lack of shade prevents how often we frequent the park. |
| I think it could use some natural barriers like plants or benches or logs or trees to make it feel Less exposed. |

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| Currently if hosts sleepers. Noise from adjoining roads prohibits some uses. When will you address Miwok? Larger park, terrible underfoot, lacking amenities, yet surrounded by a large population. I'm surprised you are focusing on Kenilworth. |
| Please remove the sand. It's not clean or safe to play in. |
| I had an elderly family member trip in a gopher hole and fall and injure themselves trying to get from library to playground. Layout just doesn't make sense. Lawn is just one big gopher habitat. |
| I never consider going to Kenilworth because it seems dirty and there are always homeless people hanging around it |
| The sand in the park area has to go. Garbage. Unkept |
| Too hot, too much road noise, water wasting |
| The volleyball used to be fun. The playground has changed several times. This could be a good place for some kind of water play on a hot day. |
| No |
| I've been taking my daughter (now 6) to this park since she was a baby & I've always wished that it were more pleasant. It always feels sort of dirty & forgotten. I'm thrilled that this park will finally be getting some upgrades! With the removal of the big trees that were there, I hope they'll put in more trees that will provide shade. It's such an asset to have a park near our house & it makes for a fun stop before or after a library visit. It would be nice to have some events there related to the library. |
| I really like the walking path next to the library with the garden. Maybe an extension of that would be fun, educational and limit the amount of grass |
| I thought it was just a lawn, library and where homeless people sleep |
| Clean up the needles/drugs/homeless/some sort of fencing/Living wall on Payton-washington |
| So grateful for this project! So much potential, such a wasted space as is. Needs more trees! |
| Becomes a pond when it rains in playground area. |
| Needs updated playground equipment and drainage from winter rains |
| Areas of lawn in public parks is okay with me since we can't have them at home and kids like a place to run. Plus, it's cooling. Could the history of Kenilworth - racetracks, horses - be incorporated into the park? It seems an anonymous sort of landscape and so dull. |
| I really just only pass through it. |
| Excited about this project! |
| As a the only park in the midtown area and the one next to my daughter's school, it makes me sad about the condition of this park. There isn't enough shade, the grass is terrible, it is loud because of the cars, unsafe for kids because they can easily walk into traffic. We would hold school events at this park if it was cleaner, safer, shadier, more inviting. |
| There's always trash I'm the sand in the playground, the grass has gopher holes so it's easy to trip |

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| I used to go there through the Parks & Recreation Department summer camps as a child. As an adult without children, there isn't much there for me. |
| It is surrounded by homeless |
| Everytime I go by there are homeless people doing drugs or alcohol. Are parks should feel safe for families. |
| Need bike parking, walking path to library. |
| It just feels very unprotected- lots of cars and no fence of any kind for little kids running around. It also seems really dirty and not maintained. |
| Kids only in the playground area seems to work well in San Francisco - "no adults allowed unaccompanied by a child" - keeps people from using it as spot for using alcohol and drugs |
| The connection with the library, teen center and fairgrounds is not clear to me. |
| It is very exposed to traffic noise |
| Walking across the park is currently highly hazardous due to the gopher holes. |
| Enjoy the small haven in the traffic. Love to take my kid there and bonus that it is by the library. Would love to see more library and community and arts events there and structures/playground that enhance the natural beauty. |
| The playground is huge, but the sand has to go! It is really hard to play on and doesn't feel clean. A more natural park would be great. It would also be wonderful if there was a way to better incorporate the library and activities there, into the park. |
| Disastrous, the weeds in the sand and horrible maintenance, yet the city ensures there's signs up about masks and hand sanitizer. Take care of your parks. Ensure parents feel safe to bring their kids there. |
| It's close to home, but we drive across town. Not many kids go there. |
| Many of us walk from the library directly to the park. It would nice to have a path going from staff library parking, behind teen center instead of walking all the way in front of teen center. And a shortcut from E Washington, behind the library (there's already a nature path there) directly to the park. Also grass and picnic tables need to be upgraded. |
| The neglect of the "teen center" is shocking. The play structure is shabby and boring. |
| Wish for the space to have a contagious community attraction. Right now the on and off noise pollution, light vagrancy, bland open space (mature trees are a positive note) and slight neglect deter me from spending time there. Looking forward to any and all attention the park can get. It's a real "jewel in the rough" in the midst of town. Thank you for the survey. |
| Not at this time..until.. counsel does something unlikeable |

Kenilworth Park's nicest amenity was always its shade. Even in the middle of a summer day, kids could go to the park and play in the shade under the trees. For reasons my Midtown neighbors and I cannot understand, City workers suddenly clear-cutted most of the park. In particular, they removed a large tree that had long shaded the toddler play structure. This was a truly terrible thing to happen in an era where many of us (including, supposedly, the City of Petaluma) are trying to preserve trees and battle climate change. I could not explain to my granddaughters why the City had destroyed some trees at the park and devastated others with drastic limb removal. It did not make sense. I have visited the park for many years--with my own children, and now my grandchildren who are in my care. I have never noticed large branches on the ground or any other signs of an unhealthy tree there. This summer, I noticed that the park sat empty in afternoons when it normally would have hosted many visitors. With the lost shade, we had to limit our own visits to early morning and late afternoon. It seems that the recreational needs of Midtown Petaluma, which is less affluent than many areas of the eastside and westside, were being ignored once again. To be a valuable park once again, Kenilworth Park needs to have its shade restored. Trees must be re-planted, and shade sails installed in the meantime. And the City should offer residents an explanation for why it devastated the park. The Tree Advisory Commission should join in that explanation.

The library's garden is very nice but none of it is carried over to the actual park. The park itself seems to just sit off to the side of flat grassy lawn with very little though given to it. I'd like to see nature and more garden items integrated into the park. My kid goes to the library to learn (books about trees, bees, seasons, animals) but once we leave the library grounds, the park itself doesn't seem to allow much continued conversation and learning.

I'd love to see the Kenilworth Teen Center revitalized as well. It feels imposing, underutilized and uninviting. Please remove the chain link around the basketball court so everyone can use them.

we haven't been to this park much because the nearby traffic feels a bit scary, especially with a little kid that loves to run around. We would be grateful for some kind of fencing to keep little safe!

I have found needles and lighters on the playground: it doesn't feel particularly safe.

Traffic traffic traffic and it's got an abandoned feel and doesn't feel safe for kids


We used to visit this playground when the kids were younger, but now they are not interested. If they playground also had activities for pre-teens/teens, we would go again, since we visit the library often.

We like the changing "story walks" that the library offers, as well as the garden! Shaded playground is great too. My kids like that the playground has a more advanced area for physical challenges. We haven't played volley ball there, but it is great to see a court available. We would love to see the park used for library events too.

Play area is cheap looking. Please get local artists and designers to construct play areas, not companies selling plastic, fake rocks etc.

It just feels kind of sad and dated. It's the kind of park where you see more homeless people than kids playing in the playground.

The volleyball area needs to remain at this park. There is not another one in town

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| I live nearby but it seems too exposed to traffic. Casual Volleyball/soccer runs a risk of going into busy streets. Picnic areas for family parties seems like best use. Teen center should be rentable space with kitchen. |
| Open up park maintenance to volunteers if the city can't keep it up. It's has looked more like a forgotten lawn than a park. |
| Needs love |
| I often take my kids there before or after we visit the library, a direct, defined path between the two would be nice |
| Would go there more often with our family if the playground equipment were more engaging for our kids. |
| The most recent times I went we had it to ourselves but there was graffiti and trash everywhere. It looked like someone put white chalk or paint all over the place. Not the cleanest place to bring a cute little 2 year old girl or any kid. As a Mama with her baby, I don't feel  comfortable bringing my kiddos there all the time. |
| It's always empty. It needs to be a more inspiring place and needs more greenery/trees and less sketchy characters for me to want to take my child here. |
| It would be really nice to have a small area fenced in for allowing dogs to play, there aren't any dog areas in midtown |
| The teen center needs to be integrated into the plan. This facility if opened up on the west side would make a great event space. Move the employee parking elsewhere and improve the connections to the front of the library. This could be a wonderful cohesive space, not just a parking lot and rear entrance. There is plenty of parking at the front, and too much street frontage. |
| Kenilworth park is our go to park. We walk there almost everyday. It would be so nice to have swings and a nice area to sit down while watching the kiddos at the playground. It would also be amazing to have a dog area! |
| Can we please have access to the teen center/gym again? This location should be a gathering place for residents of all ages but will need a unique draw to revitalize. |
| We love the location right outside the library. It's the perfect outing with kids. It's not our top choice bc of the transients often in the area though. |
| It has been traditionally very run-down and a meeting place for drug deals (I have actually witnessed such things in the middle of the day.) I do not feel safe bringing my daughter there. It's not just the equipment but the atmosphere that needs to change, which may be a large undertaking. |
| I'm very excited about this park getting updated. Right now it's a dead zone. And if there's collaboration with the library and teen center (what's going on there?) this could be a beautiful focal point for the community and surrounding neighbors. |
| Unless you clean up the homeless and drug addicted population, this park will remain highly unused |

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| The playground sits so far out on the corner and feels very much on display, as much as the element of lone men drinking or doing drugs adjacent to the play area is a turn off from using it. It would be GREAT if there was a path from the playground to the library (something fun -- a wobble path, something with maybe pressed animal prints in it, etc) or altogether was closer to the library. |
| More shade |
| It just seems like the playground needs to be reconfigured or in a different location or maybe not there at all. It's always deserted and there's always transient activity around it which makes families not very comfortable. This space has such potential though so thank you for seeing that and surveying the community! Maybe some public art there would go a long way?! |
| We do not like the sand. |
| Needs to serve a variety of community members |
| This park has so much potential. I'm pleased that the city is looking to improve what could be an amazing amenity for the neighbors and those from other parts of town. |
| We would be so thrilled to have a more welcoming park almost directly across the street from our house. We would love to see children and families there on a regular basis and are willing to participate in any community clean up event to help achieve this! |
| Kenilworth Park seems neglected. The play area is not well maintained and there does not seem to be trash pick up. |
| Would love new volleyball court. Would benefit from more trees and shade - protection from noise from the 2 major nearby streets. |
| Love bringing the library outside and incorporating it into the park, also love the area where the lawn was removed and a water wise garden was planted. |
| not at this time |
| I think the community would really benefit from a volleyball court. |
| Library proximity makes it super sweet! |
| I think more extensive planting and landscaping would make the space more inviting |
| More trash receptacles might help mitigate some of the build up. |
| Would love more shade over play ground. Missing those big trees. |
| I'd love to see swings at kenilworth park, as well as a shaded area where people can eat and stay out of the sun and the rain. It would be great to see more places for kids to climb and build! |
| The park, in its current state, does not feel safe to take children when unsheltered people are sleeping on the lawns. Too many cars speeding by; using the library/park and ride lot as short-cut to avoid E. Washington stop lights. Safety issues parking and walking to the park |
| Not nice to walk to, no entry or visual separation from cars. My son got hurt on outdated equipment |
| Frequent user |

It has so much potential. I have lived in this neighborhood for 6 years and Petaluma for 12. I have 2 children and we want to have a local park to go to. They attend Live Oak Charter School next door to the park yet we rarely go there because it is not well maintained. We don't have enough park space in our neighborhood and need to make this park accessible to all, with versatile spaces (not for one sport only) that is well-attended so it feels safe. We need to plant many more native trees that will mature to be shade trees, and incorporate the library garden.

It's the closest place to run my dog but the old tree roots and gopher holes are dangerous. Would love a more well kept lawn area, even if it's smaller. Also, seeing Washington really makes it feel unsafe to have dogs or kids running around. Putting some kind of physical or visual barrier on the street edges would help

Not inviting because of traffic noise.

Inclusive features...bucket seat swings

We live on Payran, only a couple blocks from Kenilworth Park. We hardly ever go to Kenilworth because it is not fenced, so there is no safe container for our young child to freely explore.

Adding more greenery and trees - maybe a community garden to make more people present during open hours?

Needs more shade in general, but esp. around tables & play area to replace shade trees that were removed

The playground needs an update and a water feature would make it special.

Wasted space

Wow, the age groups are a bit misleading. A 34yo with young kids is lumped in the same group as a retired 64 yo person?

Manage the gopher holes a bit so ground is more safe.

It has so much potential!!!! Ever since I was a little kid in Petaluma, (40 years old now), it's been a ghost town of a park despite having so much potential. I think the right improvements can really make it a popular park. Think leghorn, or walnut, McNear. Bring in the family friendly amenities and make it a park where people will have birthdays parties and moms want to bring their kids and people want to picnic etc. Maybe a community garden like by the cavanaugh center? The park needs to entice people. Right now it feels terribly exposed to traffic and doesn't feel comfortable to take kids. Thanks!

Decongest traffic on E Washington ST by having exit on south 101 that directly opens into Kenilworth mall into fair grounds. Also rightmost turn that enters into S101 at the intersection can be opened into target for mall going traffic that currently go upto Johnson ST. Redesign fairgrounds drive to become regular road with bus bays for airporter as well as Amtrak bus. Tress in the fairgrounds and all surrounding of Kenilworth park

I wish there were bars to do pull ups and other exercise equipment. Other cities have these amenities but I have not seen any parks in Petaluma have these. I feel it would increase the health of people living in Petaluma if these equipment were available in more of the parks.