

ROUND 2 OUTREACH RESULTS SUMMARY

Online Survey via Survey Monkey (September 26-October 28, 2024; offered in English and Spanish): 353 responses (All English)

Pop-Up Event @ Movies in the Park (September 27, 2024): 27 participants

Virtual Community Meeting via Zoom (October 9, 2024): 8 participants

In-Person Community Meeting @ TLCC (October 15, 2024): 26 participants

Total Participants: 414

Participant Profile

Most participants in the second round of outreach activities (over 90%) were **adults aged 35 and up** from the area immediately surrounding the park or another area of San Rafael. Children under age 18 also participated in outreach, mostly at the in-person pop-up event at “Movies in the Park.” 74% of survey participants live in the **Terra Linda neighborhood**.

Overview

The community was excited about the site concepts shared in Round 2 outreach and eager to see the enhancement opportunities this plan will provide for Terra Linda Park and Community Center. Outreach participants support a **modern, forward-looking design with a cohesive, flexible arrangement of amenities** that will benefit the diverse community of San Rafael in the future. According to responses, the community wants the site to serve all ages and provide a vibrant, enriching **community hub for creativity, socializing, learning, and play**. With a tree-lined entry plaza, large gathering space, expanded play area and lawn, half basketball court, and two-story community center with arts, fitness, meeting, and library areas, **Concept C was the preferred design** option. However, when asked about specific amenities, the community preferred the playground and picnic configurations from Concept B. Many outreach participants said their ideal design would blend elements of Concepts B and C. According to outreach comments, Concept C was the preferred option because it offered the best opportunity to maximize potential uses at the site, provided the best possible return on investment, and created a park and community center that would best accommodate the growing population in the area.

Concept Preferences

Playground

Concept B (50% of responses)

Outreach participants favored the expanded and centrally located playground shown in Concept B. According to some responses, the Concept B playground appeared larger, and its perceived size was likely a factor in it being the favorite selected by most community participants. This playground configuration also allows for a large lawn area and maximizes the natural shade provided by the park’s mature trees. However, some participants would like to see even more shade in the play area, either from structures or new trees. Other requests for the play area included separate toddler and youth areas and some nature play elements (e.g., Tunnel Tops in San Francisco).

Picnic area

Concept B (47% of responses)

Concept B has a large, reservable picnic area between the lawn and playground. Based on outreach responses, this configuration was preferred because the picnic area is easily accessible to the lawn, playground, and pool, all park amenities that encourage group gatherings. Some participants emphasized the importance of including non-reservable picnic tables at various locations throughout the park.

Basketball court

Concept C (62% of responses)

Basketball is a popular outdoor activity for youth and adults and the community wants this amenity included at Terra Linda Park, as shown in Concept C. However, there is some community concern about basketball play interfering with social gatherings, community center activities, and the art yard. Some outreach participants requested that it be separated from other spaces/uses as much as possible. If basketball is near the art yard, a fence may be needed to keep basketballs from entering the art space and damaging artwork or equipment.

Gathering area and plaza

Concept C (63% of responses)

Outreach participants reacted positively to the expanded, tree-lined entry plaza and gathering area adjacent to the community center featured in Concept C. They liked the idea of making a grander entrance to the park and opening views and access from Del Ganado. Community members felt that to be optimal, these spaces need to “flow” and have lots of shade and seating. There was some concern about a need to manage/control bike riding in these areas for safety and to reduce interference with other users. Some outreach participants also suggested that the size of the gathering space could be reduced, as could the number of trees included in the design.

Community Center

Concept C (72% of responses)

Community members felt the community center in Concept C was the best choice. Many mentioned that if a new community center is built, it should be as large as possible and provide as many recreation options as possible for the community. The two-story community center design in Concept C featured space on the first floor for meetings/events, visual/fine arts, fitness/health, enrichment, and public library space on the second floor. Outreach participants said a library would be a major attraction for the facility, although some suggested that it should be designed as a “micro-library” primarily used for studying, tutoring, remote work, and book pick-up/drop-off, rather than housing a book collection. Other responses stressed the importance of creating a multi-generational community hub that expands recreation opportunities for youth and teens.

Community Center spaces

For space types, the community prioritized including visual arts/ceramics, health/fitness, and library spaces in the future Terra Linda Community Center. Outreach participants expressed excitement about library options, saying they value quiet spaces to read and study and

opportunities to pick up or return books in the Terra Linda neighborhood. The community also wants the building to feature meeting rooms and spaces to take classes. Ceramics is a highly popular arts program at Terra Linda Community Center, and supporters of this program strongly suggested a need for a larger, dedicated ceramics studio. Some outreach participants suggested including gallery space, display areas, and a café or concessions in the community center.

Overall Concept

Two-thirds of outreach responses (66%) supported Concept C as the preferred design, making it the community's top choice for the site. Of the three designs, Concept C offered the largest community center with the most options, including a second-floor area for library services. Outreach participants were enthusiastic about adding a library in Terra Linda and saw great potential for the expanded building to bring more recreational programming opportunities to the community. They liked Concept C's playground and picnic areas, additional trees in the gathering area and plaza, and half basketball court, which some community members felt was essential to include in the plan to provide a healthy, safe outdoor recreation option, especially for kids and teens. Respondents generally felt Concept C was the most functional and diverse plan to accommodate a wide range of community needs.

Concept B received the second-highest number of votes. Supporters of Concept B liked the cohesive flow of spaces, the shape and centralized location of the expanded playground, the large lawn, and the reservable picnic area between the lawn and the playground. Some participants preferred this concept because it did not include a basketball court, while others appreciated the larger community center building that remained a single story.

According to outreach responses, Concept A was the least-supported concept for Terra Linda Park and Community Center. Participants who selected this concept as their favorite felt it was the least disruptive design, generating minimal changes that would be more cost-effective. Supporters of Concept A felt a larger community center would be an over-improvement for the site and a library was unnecessary. Several participants said they preferred Concept A because the community center in this option appeared to have a larger visual arts area (based on the graphics shown), although this was not intended.

Summary

In summary, community response during Round 2 outreach confirmed excitement for enhancements and a preference for a **site design that prioritizes expanded recreation opportunities**, especially for gathering, learning, and play. The park design should **preserve as much of the natural park setting as possible**, especially the redwood trees, and create flexible, cohesive, and inviting spaces for visitors to gather and connect. Concept preferences indicated that the community wants to see **Concept B's lawn, picnic, and playground** configurations combined with the **plaza, basketball, and community center options from Concept C**. The community center should serve as a **multi-generational community hub** that offers spaces for various recreation programs, public and private events, and informal social activities. Priority areas include visual/fine arts (specifically ceramics), health/fitness, and library.