

SAN RAFAEL CITYWIDE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1- SAN RAFAEL COMMUNITY CENTER Group Discussion Summary

Community Workshop #1, at the San Rafael Community Center, was held on March 30th, 2022 and hosted about 35 community members. This workshop introduced the community to the Master Plan process and gathered initial input regarding the needs and desires for the City's existing recreation network. Workshop attendees worked in groups to answer several questions. A summary of their responses follows.

I. What do you like about the City of San Rafael's parks and recreation facilities?

Community members at this meeting expressed that they appreciated the overall quantity and location of the City's parks and recreation facilities as well the variety of amenities provided in parks, including play areas, reservable picnic spaces, tennis courts, restrooms, and well-established trees. Gerstle Park, Peacock Gap Park, Sun Valley Park, Terra Linda Park and Community Center, Albert J. Boro Community Center, Pickleweed Park, Boyd Park, and the Jean and John Starkweather Shoreline Park were specifically mentioned as favorable parks to visit. Noted favorable qualities at Gerstle Park include its central location, basketball courts, and dragon sculpture. Favorable qualities noted at Peacock Gap Park include its playground and the variety of users it attracts. Favorable features noted at Sun Valley Park include its restroom and covered picnic area. Community members also expressed a general sense of safety in the City's parks and an appreciation of trail access from parks.

Regarding programs, community members expressed an appreciation for the variety of programs offered in the City. Movies in the Park, Porchfest, volunteer opportunities with UC Marin Master Gardeners at Falkirk Cultural Center, and programming at Terra Linda Community Center were specifically mentioned.

II. What improvement suggestions do you have for the City's parks and recreation facilities?

Community members at this meeting expressed that the following could be improved throughout the City's parks and recreation facilities:

- Irrigation
- Park lighting
- Maintenance
- Planting – consider native and drought-tolerant species
- Paving
- Tennis courts – surfacing
- Picnic areas

Specific suggestions were also made for certain parks, including Gerstle Park, Terra Linda Park, Peacock Gap Park, and Bret Harte Park. At Gerstle Park, attendees requested better lighting, improved play areas (balance beam), updating the tennis courts, replacing failing picnic tables, and improving walkways and paths. At Terra Linda Park, attendees requested improved tennis and basketball courts. At Peacock Gap Park, attendees requested improved tennis courts as well. At Bret Harte Park, attendees requested repaving of the park's asphalt black top.

III. What recreation features, facilities, or programs would you like to see added for San Rafael's park and recreation facilities?

At this community meeting a key topic that arose was a lack of amenities and programs for youth – aged middle through high school. Suggestions to improve this included adding a skate park to the City's recreation facilities, providing programming next to Davidson Middle School and at the San Rafael Community Center, and considering unique recreation facilities such as a bouldering wall.

Another key topic brought up by attendees at this meeting was a need for more community programming. Specially, attendees were interested in seeing the City host more special events such as concerts, dances, volunteer programs, and other gatherings for intergenerational activity. Additional requests stated by attendees included the following:

- City dog park
- Additional recreation classes for education
- Additional community gardens – and a restroom at Terra Linda Community Garden
- Centrally located City pool
- Outdoor-oriented programming – hiking, etc.
- Dedicated pickleball courts
- Lit sport fields
- More field space and better maintained fields
- Park(s) in the Montecito/Dominican neighborhood

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Figure 1 - Community Members at Group 1



Figure 2 - Community Members at Group 2



Figure 3 - Community Member at Group 3



Figure 4 - RHAA Presenting

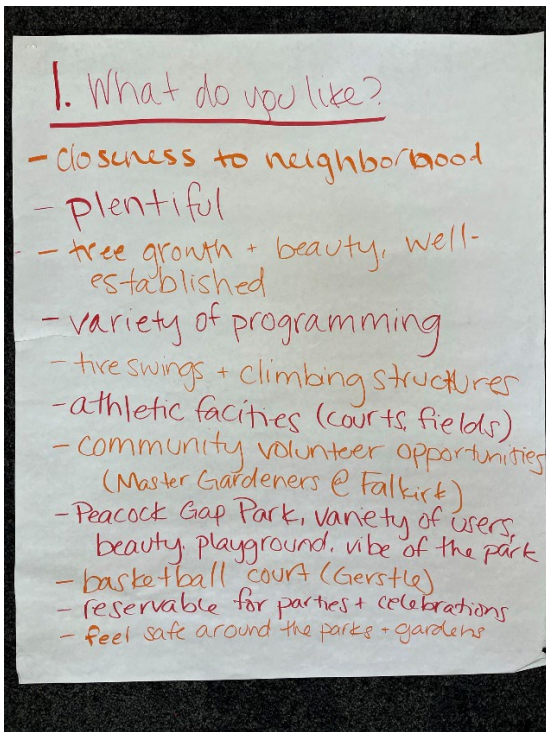


Figure 5 - Group 1, Question 1

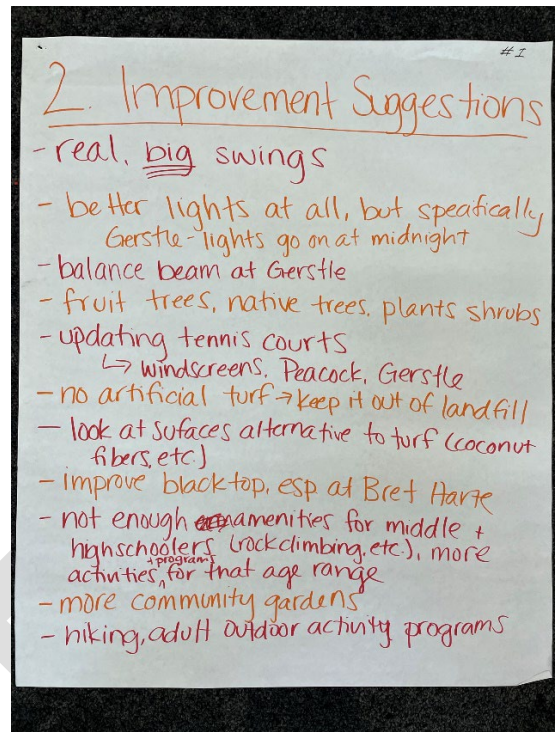


Figure 6 - Group 1, Question 2

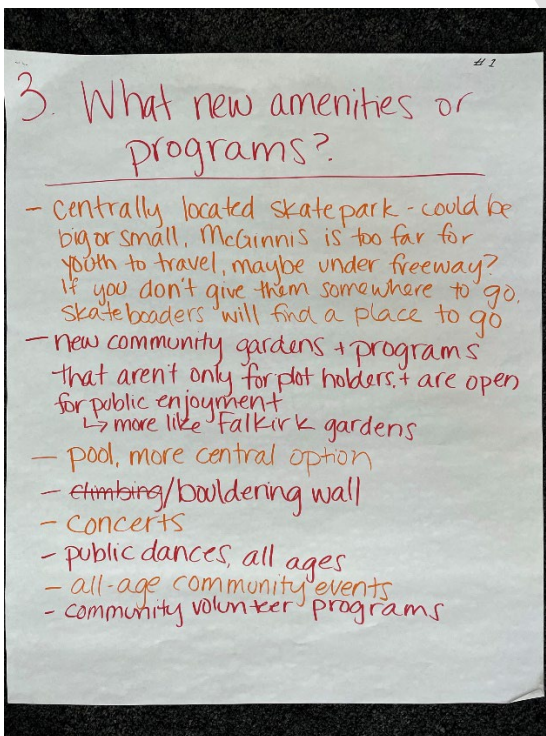


Figure 7 - Group 1, Question 3

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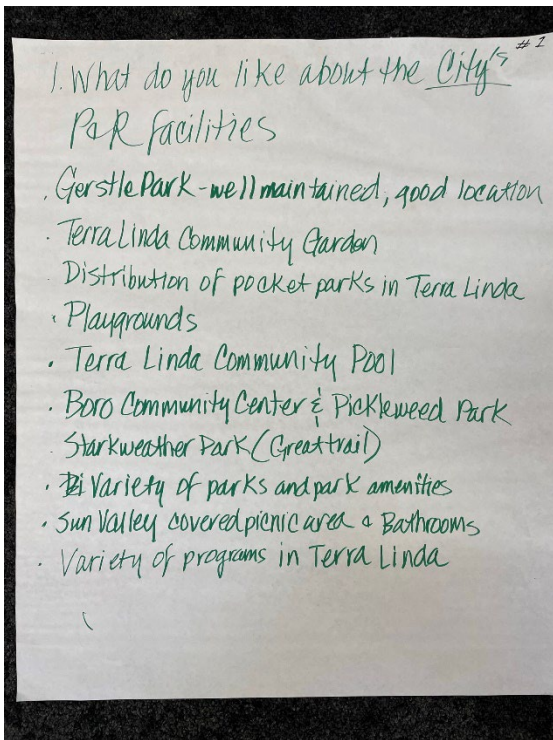


Figure 8 - Group 2, Question 1

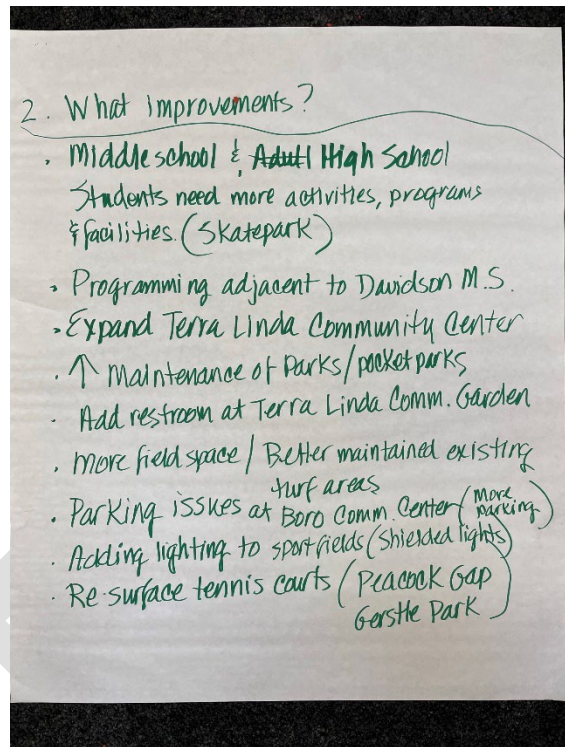


Figure 9 - Group 2, Question 2

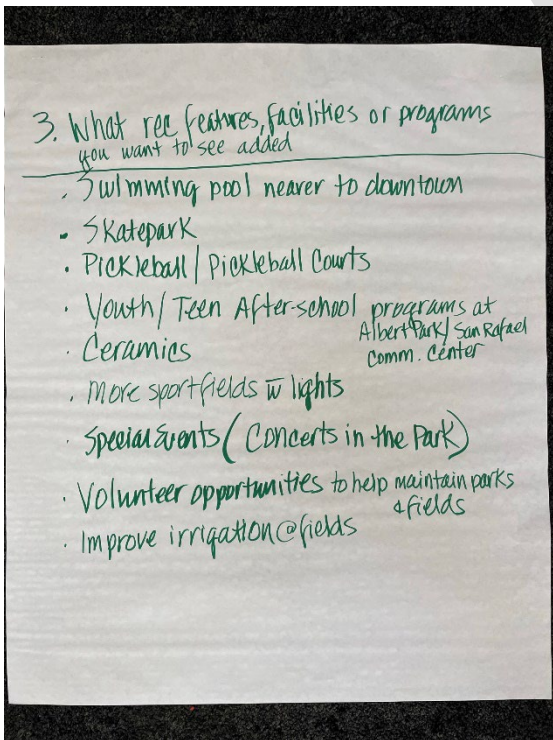


Figure 10 - Group 2, Question 3

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What Do You Like

Gr Park	Pickleball Pickleball
Playground	Able to reserve Parks for Parties
Tennis Cts	Trees = Shade
County/City	Clean Restrooms in Pks
TL Pool	Upper Bayk Pk
Classes	Pks w/ access to trails
Camps	Dragon
Picnic Area	Park Benches
Free Parking	Movies in the PK
Variety in Parks	Parkfest
So Many Parks	
Peacock PK	
L.L. Marina	
Shoreline PK Trail	

Figure 11 - Group 3, Question 1

What Improvements

- More trees Albert PK
- G. PK Courts
- G. PK Picnic Benches Replaced
- G. PK Walkways & Paths
- TL Tennis & Basketball Cts
- Mont/Dan Needs Park
- Improve Picnic Areas all over town
- Dedicated Pickleball Cts - No Conflict w/ Tennis
- Clean up BST by 7/11/Storey
- End fee to play tennis cts @ Albert PK
- Additional Com Gardens
- Restroom by Albert PK Restroom
- More Parking on Linden by courts
- Benches around town
- More Lights in Parks
- Better BBQ in G. PK

Figure 12 - Group 3, Question 1

Features, Facilities, Programs to be Added

- Fitness facilities / Per Course
- Dog Park
- More Classes @ Courts - Coramas
- Community Gardens
- Another Pool
- Pickleball Classes - Drop in Play
- Drinking Fountains
- Skate Park
- Music in the PK
- Multiuse Ct. @ Bayk
- Mont/Dominican Park Needed
- Up to date M.C. System at Community Courts

Figure 13 - Group 3, Question 1

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COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1- TERRA LINDA COMMUNITY CENTER Group Discussion Summary

Community Workshop #1, at the Terra Linda Community Center, was held on April 28th, 2022 and hosted 3 community members. This workshop introduced the community to the Master Plan process and gathered initial input regarding the needs and desires for the City's existing recreation network. As attendance was limited to a few individuals, there was only 1 group session held to answer the following questions verbally – answers were not recorded on a flip chart as they were at the March 30th meeting at the San Rafael Community Center. A summary of this group's responses follows.

I. What do you like about the City of San Rafael's parks and recreation facilities?

Community members at this meeting expressed that the City does a good job maintaining existing parks and recreation facilities. Specially, attendees stated that existing parks and recreation facilities are updated and have well-maintained restrooms. Gerstle Park and Falkirk Cultural Grounds were explicitly mentioned as favorable places to visit. Attendees also expressed an appreciation for the City's San Rafael Activities Guide, stating that the City offered a variety of recreation programs and that many community member enroll in these programs.

II. What improvement suggestions do you have for the City's parks and recreation facilities?

Regarding improvements, attendees at this meeting stated that overall park and facility maintenance could be improved – specially related to litter and restrooms. Attendees also stated that the City's park picnic tables should be replaced as needed and that the Terra Linda Community Center should be updated to attract additional users. Additionally, attendees recommended that the City consider advertising recreation programs through the Marin Independent Journal and the City Manager's Newsletter.

III. What recreation features, facilities, or programs would you like to see added for San Rafael's park and recreation facilities?

At this community meeting attendees focused on the key topic of providing more community programming for the City of San Rafael to attract intergenerational activity. Specific recommendations from this groups included the provision of places for performing/storytelling (amphitheater, stage, etc.), City-hosted food truck events, and organizing family activities similar to those at the Marin Country Mart. Regarding park and facilities amenities, attendees recommended the City add a skate park, offer more tot-age play structures, use resilient matting at all play areas (rather than wood fiber), and provide more shade.



Figure 1 - Community Meeting Attendees (3) Seen with Recreation Staff

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COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1- ZOOM Group Discussion Summary

Community Workshop #1, online via Zoom, was held on May 5th, 2022 and hosted 9 community members. This workshop introduced the community to the Master Plan process and gathered initial input regarding the needs and desires for the City's existing recreation network. For this online session a group discussion was held to answer the following questions. A summary of this group's responses follows.

I. What do you like about the City of San Rafael's parks and recreation facilities?

Community members at this meeting liked the unique setting within which San Rafael's parks are located – natural Bay Area hills with access to trails and open space. Community members at this meeting also shared that they liked that there are opportunities for parks and recreation facilities to be improved without requiring additional land or property.

II. What improvement suggestions do you have for the City's parks and recreation facilities?

At this meeting, many comments were heard regarding improvements desired at Terra Linda Park, Pool, and Community Center. Interests included expanded hours for pool access, especially for adults, and facility improvements at the pool house such as updated lockers and benches.

Community members at the meeting also discussed the importance of physical and social safety in City parks. Physically, attendees encouraged the removal of hazards such as splinters from benches and awareness of tripping risks. Socially, attendees noted that each City park has unique needs for safety and social gathering.

Additional improvement requests made included repairing irrigation at fields in Albert Park and amending challenges at the publicly closed Beach Park so that it can be reopened.

III. What recreation features, facilities, or programs would you like to see added for San Rafael's park and recreation facilities?

Reopening closed tennis courts and adding pickleball facilities in San Rafael was a priority for attendees at this community meeting. Attendees were interested in having shared (with tennis users), or dedicated pickleball courts throughout the City.



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COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1- ALBERT J. BORO COMMUNITY CENTER

Group Discussion Summary

Community Workshop #1, at the Albert J. Boro Community Center, was held on May 11th, 2022 and hosted approximately 50-60 community members. In collaboration with Voces del Canal and the Canal Alliance, the City and RHAA worked to design a community meeting specifically for the Canal Community – this meeting was held in Spanish and rather than a formal presentation format, the meeting was oriented around activity stations where participants provided feedback on the City's parks and recreation network. The stations included:

- Welcome Station
 - Staff provided optional name tags, a sign in sheet, and provided explanation of the event setup
- Station 1 – Parks and Recreation Questionnaire
 - Staff provided an explanation of the Master Plan purpose
 - Staff provided paper and virtual copies of the Parks and Recreation Questionnaire for attendees to complete
- Station 2 – What parks and recreation facilities are you visiting and why?
 - Event attendees were prompted to share which City parks they use and why
 - 3 interactive boards were provided
 - Map of the City's parks and recreation facilities – to orient attendees
 - List of the City's parks and recreation facilities – for attendees to mark which City parks they have visited
 - List of recreation amenities at the City's parks and recreation facilities – for attendees to mark which amenities they use, or like, in City parks
- Station 3 – Pickleweed Park Improvements
 - Staff provided a poster of the proposed 2020 Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project – for attendees to comment on
- Station 4 – General Questions related to City parks and recreation
 - Responses to the following questions were recorded by staff:
 - What do you like about the City of San Rafael's park and recreation facilities?
 - What improvement suggestions do you have for the City's parks and recreation facilities?
 - What recreation features, facilities, or programs would you like to see added to San Rafael?
- Children's Station – What do you like to do in parks?
 - Staff provided art materials for children to draw what they liked in parks in an art project

A summary of this community meeting follows.



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Station 2: What Parks and Recreation Facilities Are You Visiting and Why?

Meeting attendees were shown a map of San Rafael’s parks and recreation facilities and invited to mark which ones they’ve visited, Figure 1.

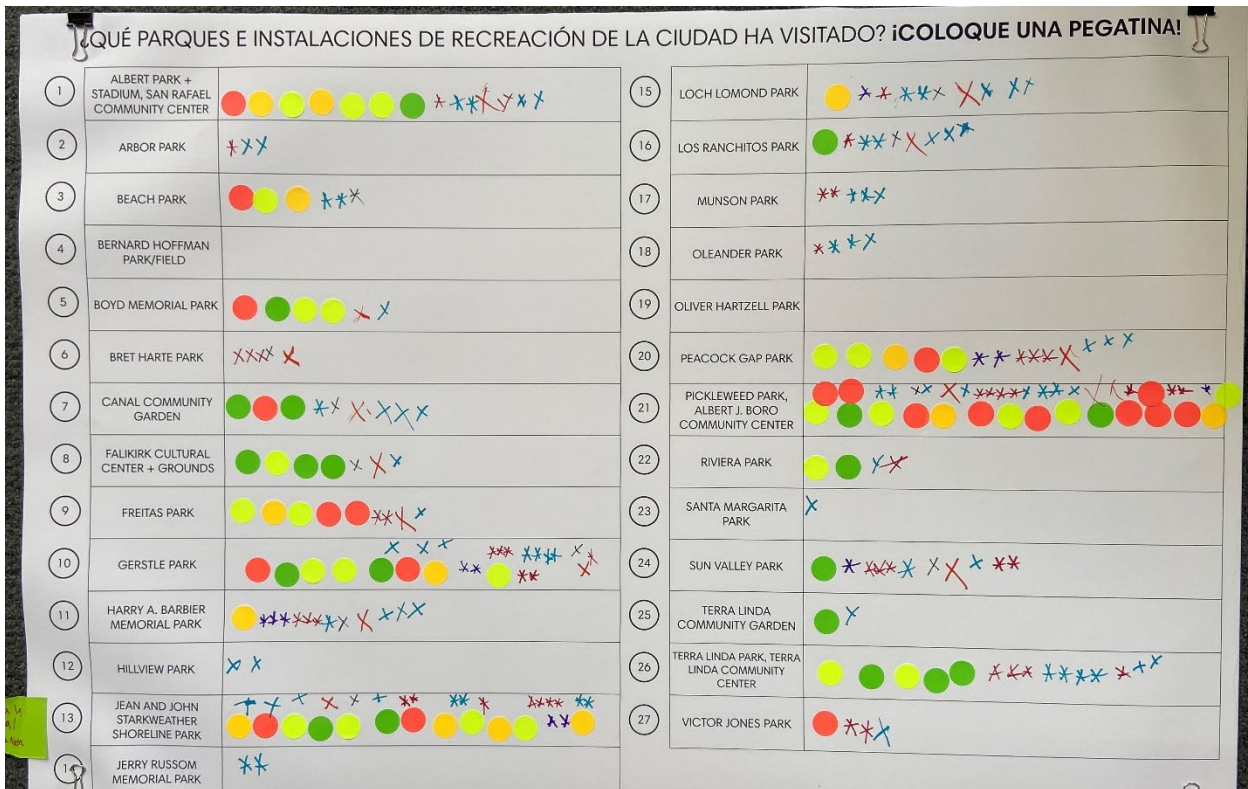


Figure 1 - Parks Visited

Park and/or Recreation Facility	Mark (QTY)	Park and/or Recreation Facility	Mark (QTY)
Pickleweed Park, Albert J. Boro Community Center	38	Boyd Memorial Park	6
Jean And John Starkweather Shoreline Park	31	Bret Harte Park	5
Gerstle Park	25	Munson Park	5
Terra Linda Park, Terra Linda Community Center	15	Oleander Park	4
Albert Park + Stadium, San Rafael Community Center	14	Riviera Park	4
Peacock Gap Park	14	Victor Jones Park	4
Harry A. Barbier Memorial Park	13	Arbor Park	3
Sun Valley Park	11	Hillview Park	2
Loch Lomond Park	10	Jerry Russom Memorial Park	2
Canal Community Garden	9	Terra Linda Community Garden	2
Freitas Park	9	Santa Margarita Park	1
Los Ranchitos Park	9	Bernard Hoffman Park/Field	0
Falkirk Cultural Center + Grounds	7	Oliver Hartzell Park	0
Beach Park	6		

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Following this, meeting attendees were invited to select their top 5 recreation amenities used in the City’s parks and recreation facilities, Figure 2.

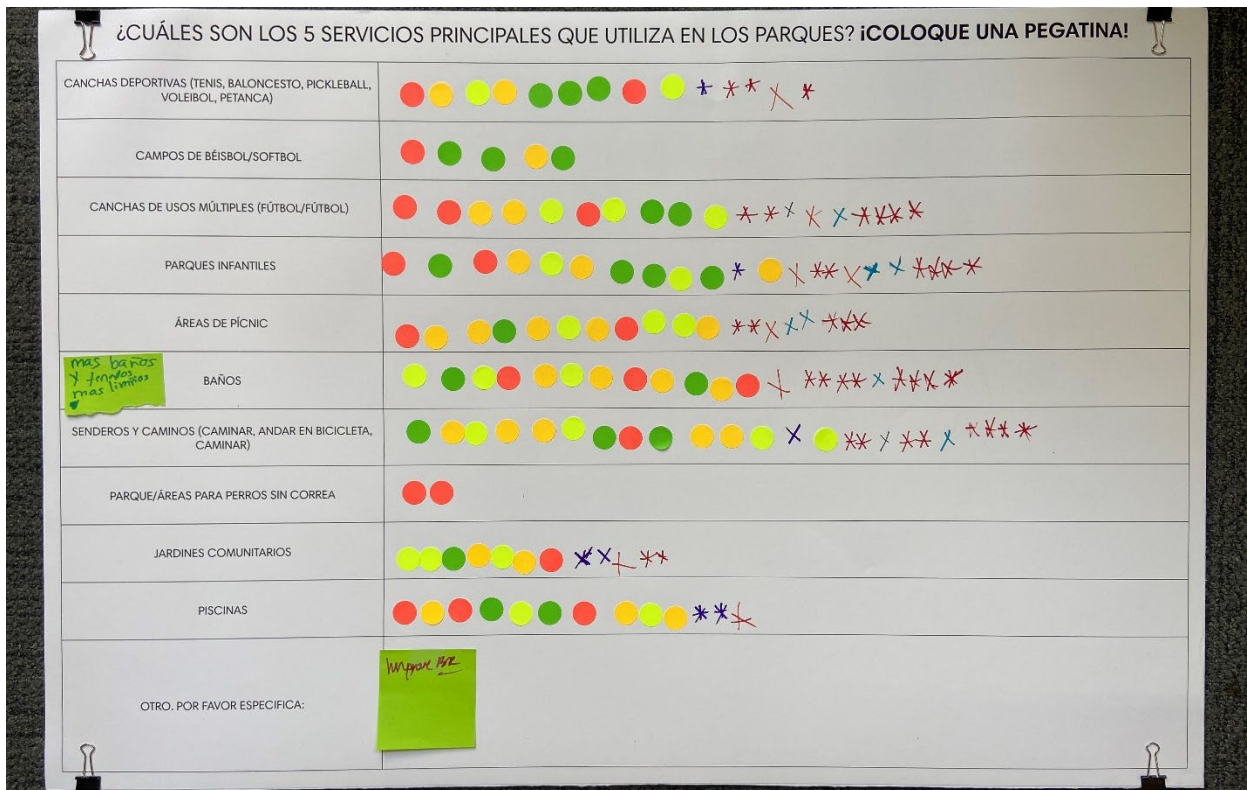


Figure 2- Top 5 Recreation Amenities

Recreation Amenity	Mark QTY)
Trails and Paths(walking, biking, walking)	24
Children's Play Areas	22
Bathrooms	22
Multipurpose fields (football/soccer)	19
Picnic Areas	19
Sports courts (tennis, basketball, pickleball, volleyball)	14
Swimming Pools	13
Community Gardens	12
Baseball/Softball Fields	5
Off-leash dog park/areas	2
Other: Improve and clean restrooms	

Attendees at this meeting shared that the top parks and recreation facilities visited in San Rafael are **Pickleweed Park and Albert J. Boro Community Center, Jean and John Starkweather Shoreline Park, and Gerstle Park**, respectively. Following those, **Terra Linda Park and Community Center, Albert Park and San Rafael Community Center, Peacock Gap Park, and Harry A. Barbier Memorial Park** were also noted, respectively.

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At these parks and recreation facilities, meeting attendees noted that the top five recreation amenities included the following:

- Trails and paths
- Children's play areas
- Bathrooms
- Multipurpose fields
- Picnic areas

Station 3: Pickleweed Park Improvements

Staff provided a poster of the 2020 Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project – for attendees to comment on.

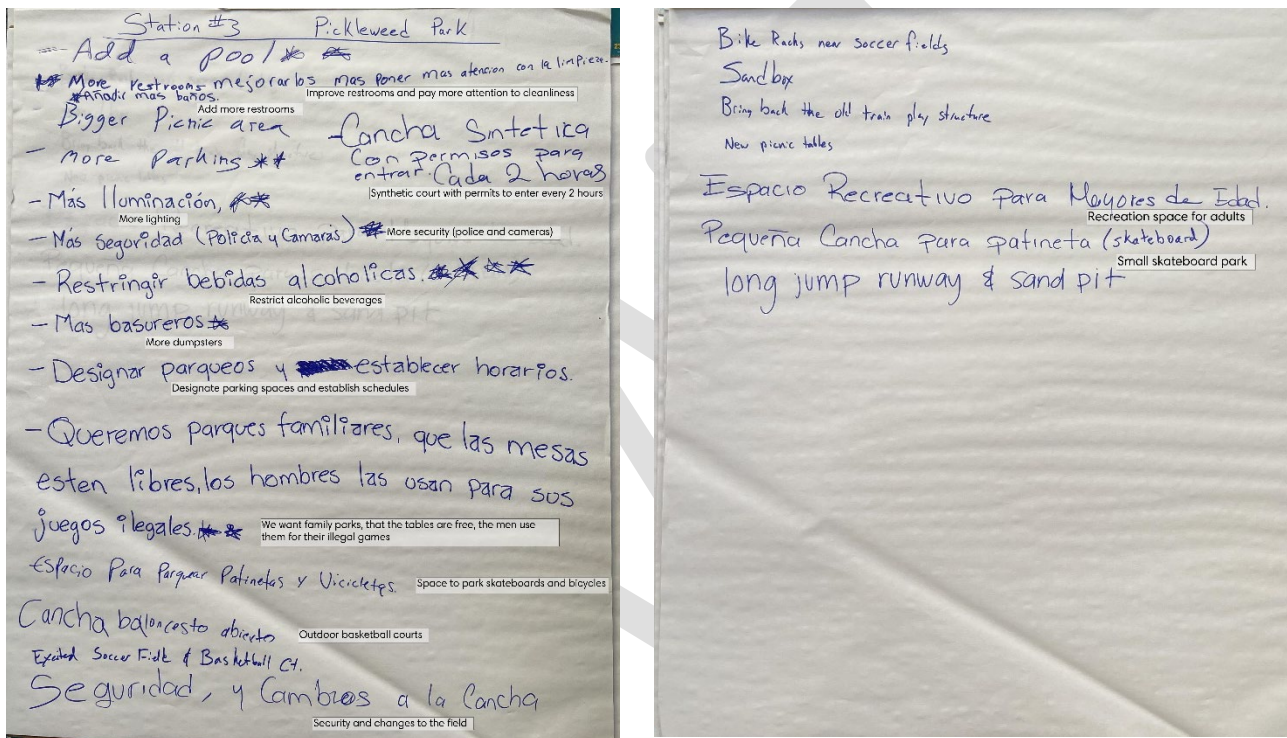


Figure 3- Pickleweed Improvements Comments

An important theme arising from comments to Pickleweed Park improvements related to separation of unwanted activities, especially between adults and children. Comments related to this include recommendations to restrict alcohol and prevent illegal activities (gambling) at Pickleweed Park.

Related to safety, several comments centered around security and an interest in having additional lighting, police surveillance, and security cameras at Pickleweed Park. Concerns for maintenance and cleanliness of the Park were also made clear, particularly in relation to restrooms and picnic areas.

In terms of new facilities, meeting attendees were interested in seeing the following at Pickleweed Park. Items are not listed by order of frequency mentioned:

- Community pool
- Areas for skateboarding and bikes, including bike and skateboard parking
- Outdoor basketball court

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- Synthetic sport fields
- Better parking

Station 4: General Questions Related to City Parks and Recreation

At station 4 meeting attendees were invited to answer 3 questions about the San Rafael's parks and recreation system.

What do you like about the park and recreational facilities in the city of San Rafael?

A major amenity that community members liked at this meeting is the City's playgrounds and play areas for children. Following this, meeting attendees shared appreciation for the City's soccer fields (at Pickleweed Park) and picnic areas. Additional items liked by attendees include park trees, the City's variety of parks and facilities, and access to open space. See Figure 5 and Figure 6.

What suggestions for improvement do you have for the city's parks and recreational facilities?

At this meeting, attendees shared improvement suggestion in the categories of cleanliness, safety, enhanced recreation, and recreation amenities. See Figure 6 and Figure 7.

Regarding cleanliness, meeting attendees shared that general cleanliness can be improved in City parks, especially in restrooms. Attendees also shared that the City should consider additional trash cans and prohibiting smoking in parks to support cleanliness.

Similar to themes heard at Station 3 of this meeting, attendees requested improvements related to separation of unwanted activities, especially between adults and children. Community members supported improved safety through the provision of additional security, lighting, and safe play areas for kids.

To improve recreation and recreation amenities, community members here requested synthetic turf fields, soccer fields open year-round, bike amenities, outdoor exercise machines, and improved picnic areas with shade and updated furniture.

What features, facilities, or recreation programs would you like to be added to San Rafael?

A strong interest shared by meeting attendees here was having more recreation activities, particularly for teens. Program interests for this age group include arts and environmental protection. In line with this interest, many attendees also shared a desire for a new bike or skateboard park for youth and teens. Community members shared that in adding recreation activities enrollment fees should be affordable. See Figure 8 and Figure 9.

Like previous interests shared in this community meeting, additional requests stated by attendees included:

- Outdoor basketball courts
- Improved picnic areas – with shade and updated structures
- Improved safety through lighting



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- Separate spaces for adults and children to recreate
- Community gym
- Community pool
- More water fountains
- Improved parking
- Soccer field access year-round
- Bike amenities – bike paths and bike parking

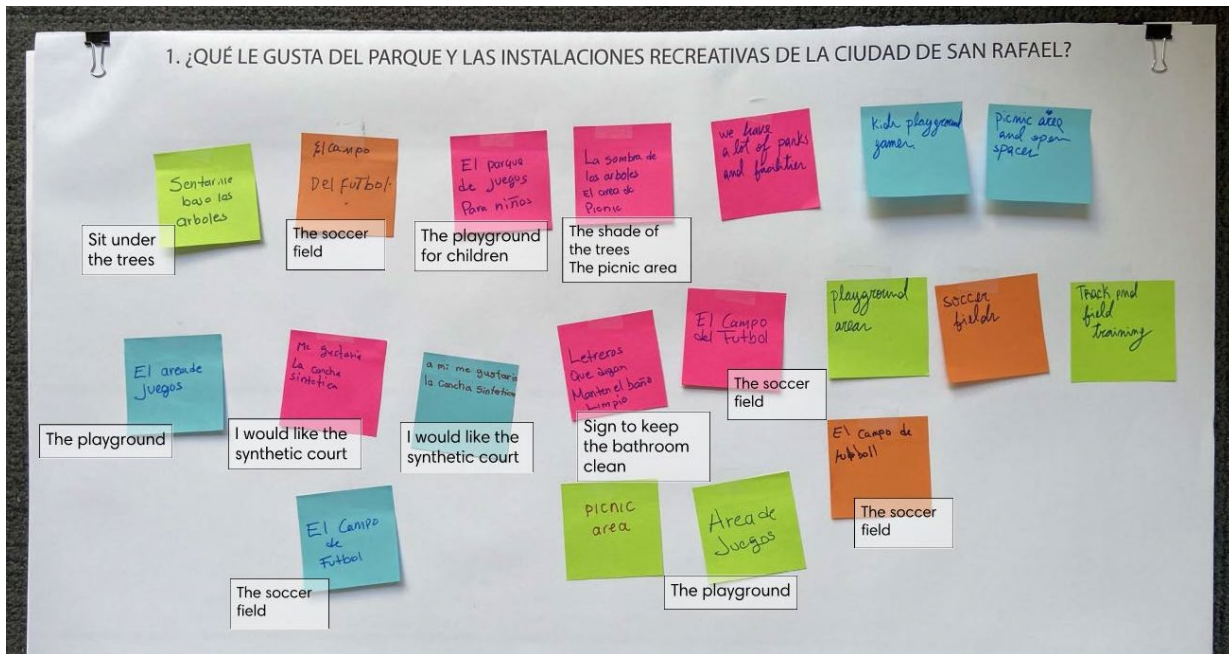


Figure 4 - Station 4, Question 1 Post-It Board

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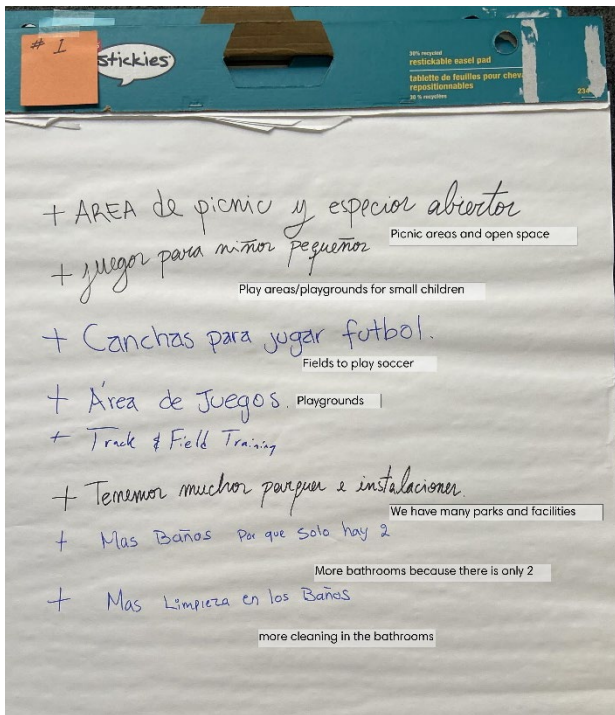


Figure 5 - Station 4, Question 1 Comments

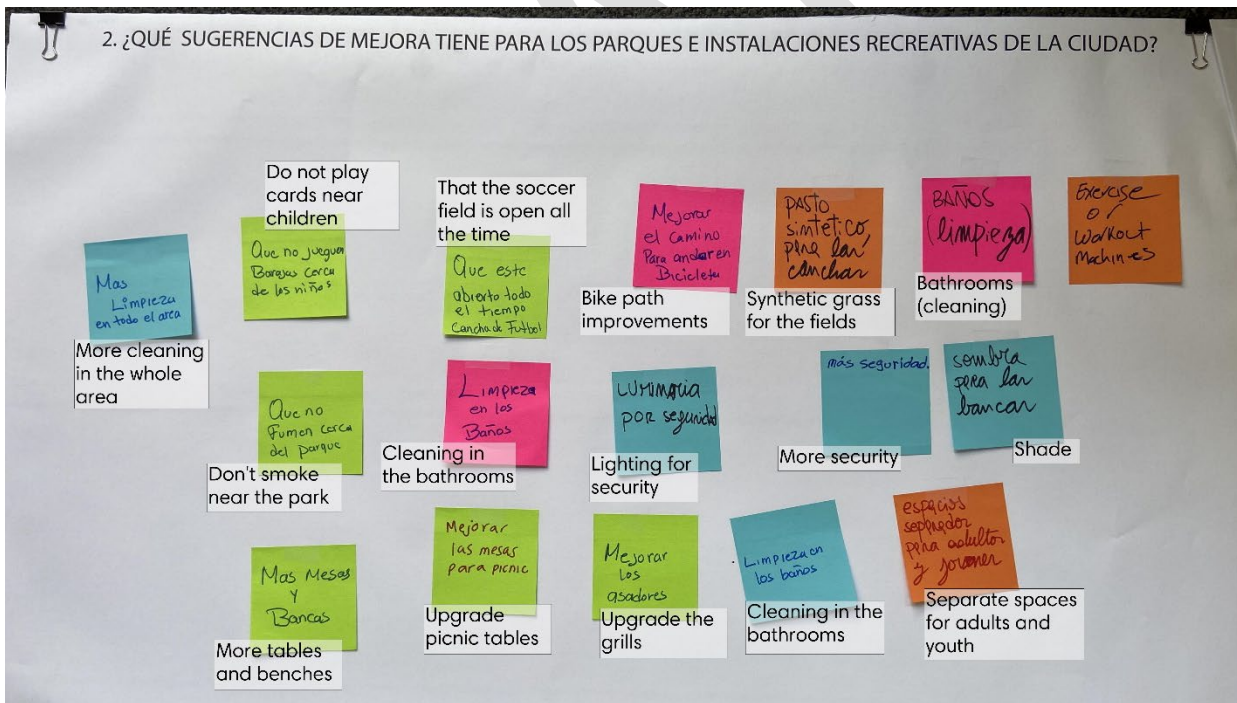


Figure 6 - Station 4, Question 2 Post-It Board

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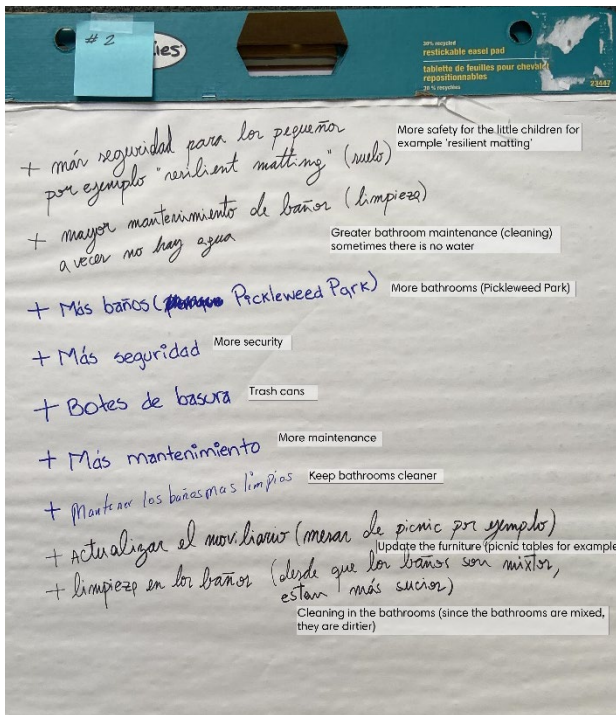


Figure 7 - Station 4, Question 2 Comments

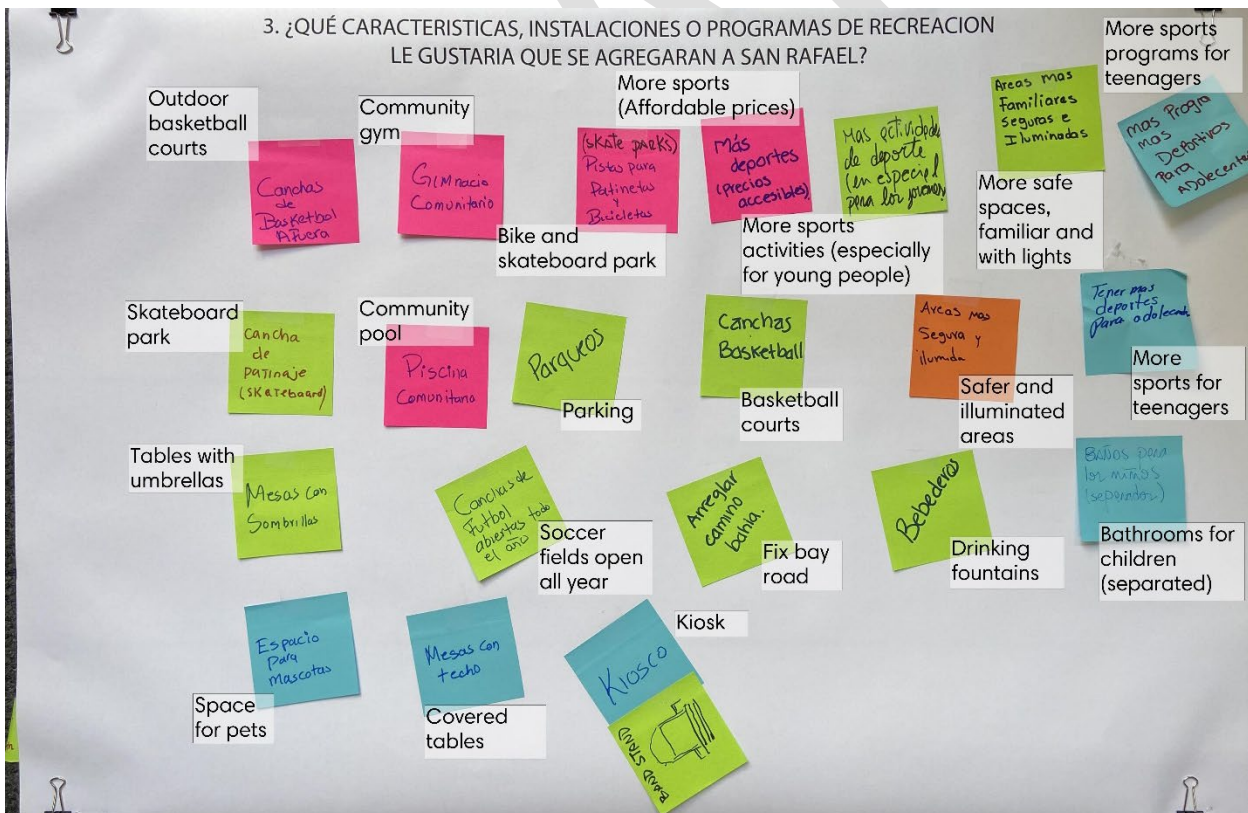


Figure 8 - Station 4, Question 3 Post-It Board

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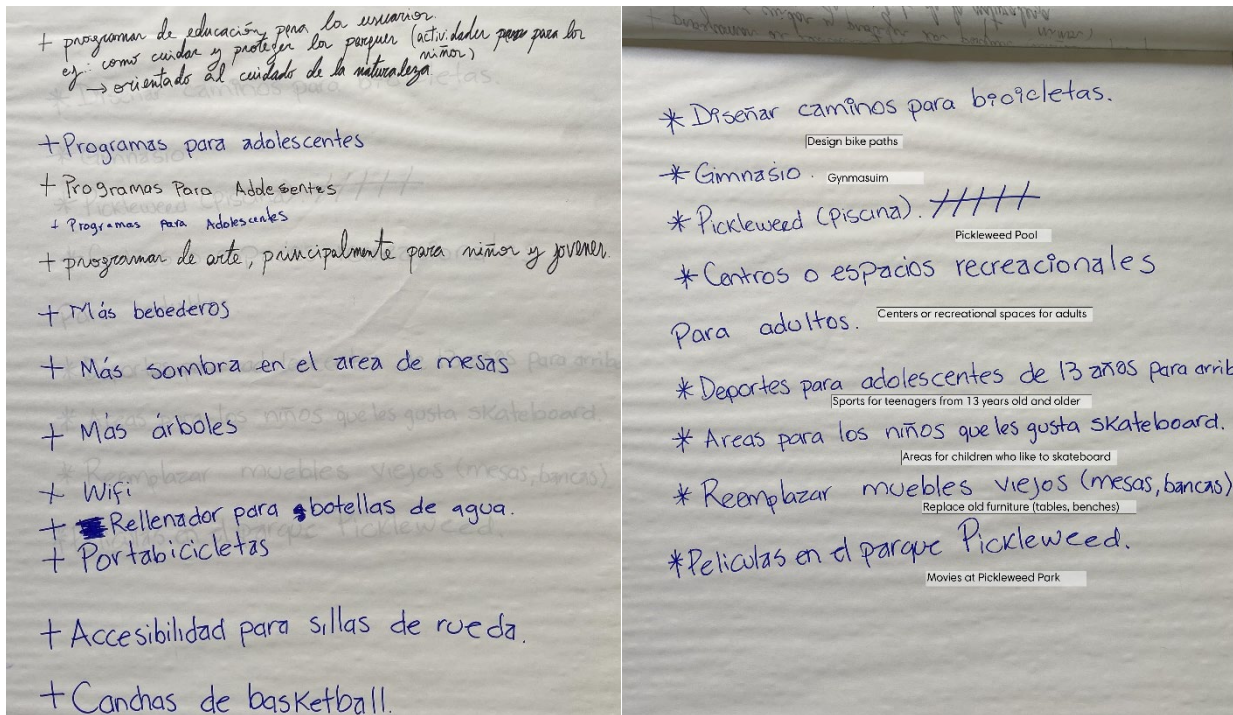


Figure 9 - Station 4, Question 3 Comments

Children’s Station: What do you like to do in parks?

At the children’s station, kids were invited to create art projects showing what they like to do in parks. The art projects are shown below in Figures 10, 11, 12, and 13.



Figure 10 - Children's Station 1

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Figure 11 - Children's Station 2

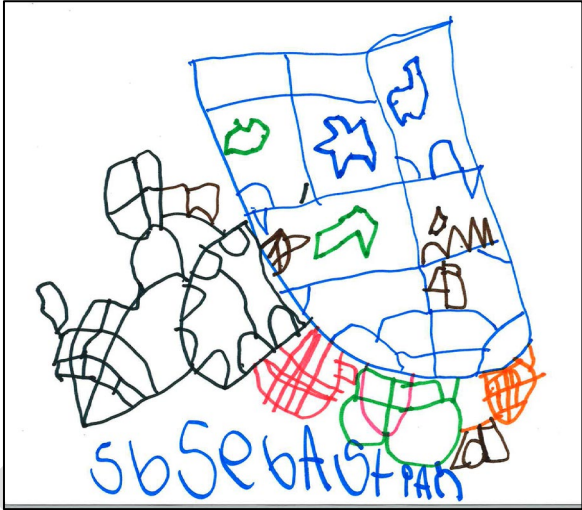


Figure 12 - Children's Station 3



Figure 13 - Children's Station 4