

RECOMMENDATIONS ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Public Workshop, Pop-Up Events, and Online Survey Results

In June and July 2025, feedback on the Parks Master Plan recommendations was gathered through three engagement opportunities: a workshop held on June 18 at the Vibe Teen Center; two pop-up events at the July 4 celebration and the "Off the Grid" food and music event on July 9; and an online survey available on the City's website between July 2 and July 27. In total, approximately **375 people provided feedback**.

At this stage, public input was needed to refine the Plan's proposed guidelines and policies, park standards, and recommended park improvements. Each engagement activity yielded valuable feedback, which will help shape and improve the final Master Plan recommendations. This summary begins with key takeaways from these engagement activities, taken cumulatively. The memo then continues with a more detailed summary of the workshop and pop-up events, and the online survey.

TAKEAWAYS

Guidelines and Policies

Residents were presented with a set of preliminary policies for parks, recreation and open space, and asked which were most important to them.

Top 3 Parks Master Plan Policy Priorities:

- 1. **Policy 1.2** Ensure parks are **comfortable and inviting** by adding or improving key park features such as seating, lighting, shade, and restrooms.
- 2. **Policy 1.3** Ensure the parks and recreation system is **responsive to the recreation needs** identified in the Parks Master Plan and through continued community engagement.
- 3. Policy 3.1 Provide places and amenities to view, enjoy and access the water.

Top 3 Open Space Element Policy Priorities:

For the Open Space Element, workshop participants supported the following policy priorities:

- 1. Strengthen **shoreline habitat and resilience** with nature-based features.
- 2. Utilize design standards to improve wildlife movement across the city.
- 3. Enhance **habitat along tidal channels** such as the Belmont Slough, and in parks and open spaces.



Park by Park Improvements

The engagement materials featured presentation graphics describing design concepts for five parks, as well as a summary of proposed improvements at each of Foster City's other parks. At the pop-up events, only the concept design for Leo J Ryan was presented. Overall, park improvement recommendations were well received by the community, with a lot of excitement around the proposed changes. Feedback on each of the five key sites is summarized below.

Boothbay Park

Elements people were most excited about:

- Playground
- Reservable picnic areas
- Multi-purpose lawn for sports and informal play

What else people wanted to see:

- Expanded seating
- Additional shade for picnic and play areas
- More pickleball opportunities, with modifications to existing tennis courts

Edgewater Park

Elements people were most excited about:

- Central plaza and seating areas
- Improved park entry and planting
- Multi-use meadow/green space

What else people wanted to see:

- Fitness stations
- Seating near tennis courts
- Better court space management between basketball, tennis, and pickleball

Leo J Ryan Park

Elements people were most excited about:

- Activated waterfront with lighting, viewpoints, docks
- Event space improvements
- Nature hub with native plantings and nature play
- Pickleball court upgrades



What else people wanted to see:

- More seating, shade at gathering areas, and boardwalk dining/cafés
- Additional lagoon interaction opportunities
- Improved water quality

Gull Park

Elements people were most excited about:

- Better water access via decks along the lagoon
- Ecotone lagoon planting to deter geese and add character
- Smaller, more manageable beach area

What else people wanted to see:

• Improved water quality [this is an outcome that would be supported by the proposed design changes at the lagoon edge.]

Sea Cloud Park

Elements people were most excited about:

- Waterfront activation and scenic lagoon views
- Wetland restoration for ecosystem and wildlife benefits
- Central hub/plaza for gatherings

What else people wanted to see:

• Spaces for social interaction and citywide events [this idea is consistent with the concept for a central hub/plaza for gatherings.]

Other Parks

What people wanted to see:

- Shade structures and trees
- Seating areas and picnic tables
- Waterfront experiences and activation (at lagoon adjacent parks)
- Pickleball courts
- Maintenance upgrades



WORKSHOP + POP UPS

LOCATION

Workshop:

June 18, 2025 at 6:00pm The Vibe Teen Center 670 Shell Blvd, Foster City, CA

Fourth of July Celebration Pop-Up:

July 4, 2025 Leo J Ryan Park 650 Shell Blvd, Foster City, CA

Off the Grid Pop-Up:

July 9, 2025 Leo J Ryan Park 650 Shell Blvd, Foster City, CA

ATTENDANCE

- 25 participants for in-person Workshop event on June 22nd
- Approximately 75 engaged through the Pop-up events

OBJECTIVES

- Share information about the planning process, including project updates, scope and timeline.
- Get community input on findings to-date, Parks Master Plan policies and actions, park
 development standards, design concepts, park-by-park improvements, and gain a deeper
 understanding of community parks and recreation needs.

WORKSHOP FORMAT

- Sign-in table to welcome participants and give verbal instructions
- Brief 15-minute kick-off presentation that included information about the planning process, what a Master Plan is, how it connects to the Parks and Open Space Element of the General Plan, and key existing conditions and community outreach results to-date.



- Large interactive boards were set up around the room with information about the Master Plan and Open Space Element with post it notes and stickers for recording comments and responses to specific questions.
- Each interactive board covered a topic area for participants to interact with. These included:
 - 1. What We've Learned
 - 2. Policies & Actions (Parks Master Plan)
 - 3. Policies & Actions (Parks and Open Space Element)
 - 4. Park Development Standards
 - 5. Design Concepts
 - 6. Park by Park Improvements
- WRT, the lead consultant for the project, and City staff gave directions and answered questions as participants interacted with the boards.

POP UP FORMAT

- Parks Master Plan informational boards and Leo J. Ryan Park design concepts were displayed at the 4th of July and Off the Grid pop-up events to gather feedback.
- Attendees were encouraged to complete the online survey at the pop-up.

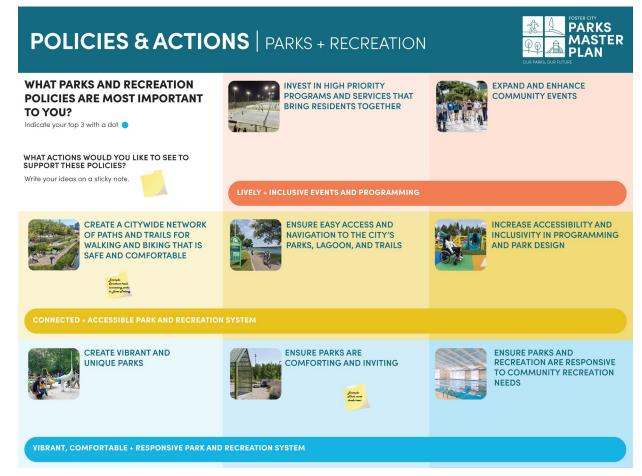






STATION 01: POLICIES & ACTIONS

Prompt: "What parks and recreation policies are important to you? Indicate your top 3."







INCREASE LAGOON

ACTIVATION THROUGH

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS, IMPROVED WATER QUALITY, AND WATERFRONT ACTIVITY

ACTIVE + INTEGRATED LAGOON

PROVIDE PLACES TO VIEW AND

ENJOY THE LAGOON

ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS OF

DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

This station provided space for participants to explore the policies for the parks and recreation system. The three policies that received the most stickers were 1) *Promoting habitat connectivity and access to nature in parks* (8 stickers), 2) *Create a citywide network of paths and trails for walking and biking that is safe and comfortable* (7 stickers), and 3) *Increase lagoon activation through programming and events, improved water quality and waterfront activity* (6 stickers). There were few comments with associated actions for each policy, but a few comments mentioned pickleball as a high priority program, amenities for seniors and public parking to increase accessibility, wind shelters for comfort, and an indoor gym to be responsive to community's recreation needs.



Table 1 - Workshop Feedback for Parks Master Plan Policies and Actions

Policy	Priority (# of Stickers)	What Actions Would You Like to See to Support These Policies?
Invest in High Priority Programs and Services that Bring Residents Together.	4	Pickleball
Expand and enhance community events.	5	none
Create a citywide network of paths and trails for	7	none
walking and biking that is safe and comfortable.		
Ensure easy access and navigation to the city's parks, lagoon, and trails	4	none
Increase accessibility and inclusivity in	4	Amenities for Seniors:
programming and park design		Parking (Blue Placard),
		Elevators,
		Walker/wheelchair access,
		drop off zones at front door
		Need more public parking
Create Vibrant and Unique Parks	3	none
Ensure parks are comforting and inviting	3	Wind shelters
Ensure parks and recreation are responsive to community recreation needs	4	Indoor gym
Promote Habitat Connectivity and access to nature in parks	8	none
Incorporate climate resilience in park improvements and programming	4	none
Implement a funding strategy to create and maintain the parks and recreation system described in this plan	2	none
Plan and Engage Proactively	1	none
Sustain high quality maintenance of parks and recreation facilities	3	none
Provide places to view and enjoy the lagoon	2	none
Increase lagoon activation through programming and events, improved water quality and waterfront activity	6	none
Enhance effectiveness of department operations	1	none



Prompt: "What open space + conservation policies are important to you? Indicate your top 3."



For open space policies, the policy with the most stickers was *Strengthen shoreline habitat and resilience with nature-based features* (7). No comments were received.

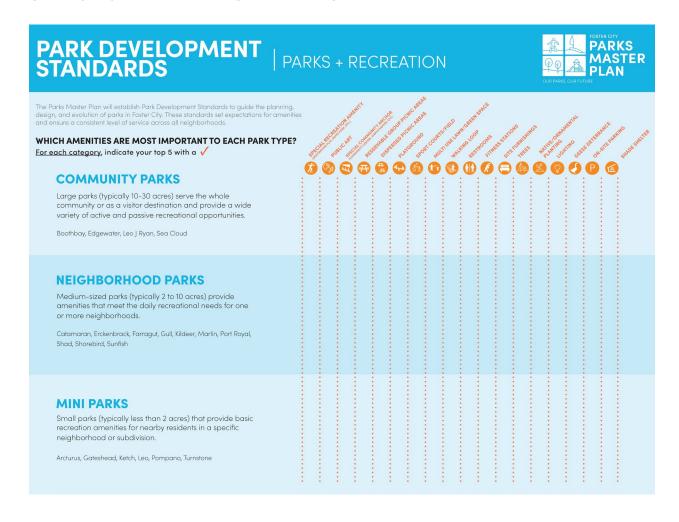
Table 2 - Workshop Feedback for Open Space Element Policies and Actions

Policy	Stickers	Comment
Strengthen shoreline habitat and resilience with nature-based features	7	none
Utilize design standards to improve wildlife movement across the city	4	none
Enhance habitat along tidal channels such as the Belmont Slough, and in parks and open spaces	3	none
Add native and naturalized landscaping and shade trees in urban parks and open spaces	3	none
Protect open space and natural buffers from encroachment	4	none

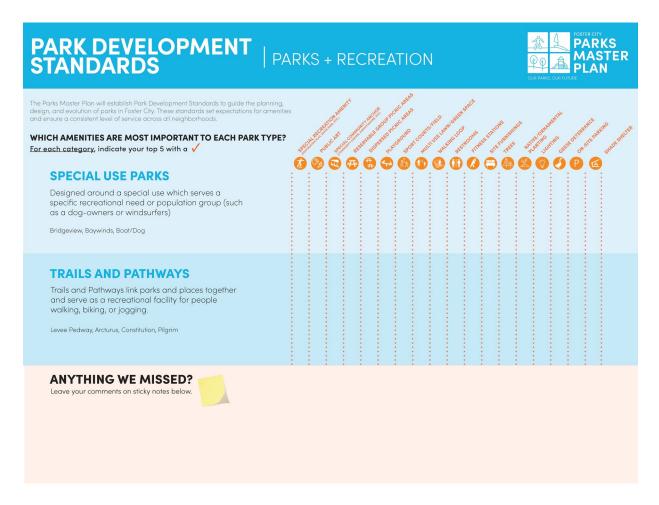


Engage youth and volunteers in lagoon, coastal,	4	none
and environmental stewardship opportunities		
Foster Regional partnerships for resource	1	none
management		
Monitor and address groundwater rise concerns	1	none

STATION 02: PARK TYPE STANDARDS







At this station, participants were asked to weigh in on which amenities should be placed at each of five park types – Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Mini Parks, Special Use Parks, and Trails and Pathways.

Within Community Parks, the three amenities that received the most checkmarks were shade shelters (4) and trees (3). For Neighborhood Parks, the top three amenities were geese deterrence and native/ornamental plantings, with four checkmarks each. In Mini Parks, workshop participants would like to see more public art (4) and shade shelters (4). For Special Use Parks, restrooms and shade shelters rose to the top with 6 checkmarks each. For Trails and Pathways, shade shelters received the most checkmarks with 3.



Prompt: "Which amenities are most important to each park type? For each category, indicate your top 5 with a checkmark"

Table 3-Workshop Feedback for Park Type Standards

Amenity	Park Type				
	Community Parks	Neighbor- hood Parks	Mini Parks	Special Use Parks	Trails and Pathways
Special Recreation Amenity (Destination play, skate park, etc.)	3	1	1	2	2
Special Community Anchor (Community Center, Amphitheater, etc.)	2	0	1	2	0
Public Art	3	3	4	4	2
Reservable Picnic Areas	1	0	0	4	1
Dispersed Picnic Areas	2	1	0	2	1
Playground	1	3	1	2	0
Sport Courts/Field	1	1	0	3	0
Multiuse Lawn/Green Space	1	1	0	2	1
Walking Loop	3	1	1	4	2
Restrooms	3	3	2	6	1
Fitness Stations	3	2	2	3	2
Site Furnishings	1	2	1	0	1
Trees	4	3	3	2	1
Native Planting/Ornamental Plantings	3	4	3	2	1
Lighting	1	2	2	2	2
Geese Deterrence	2	4	3	0	1
On-Site Parking	2	0	0	4	0
Shade Shelter	5	3	4	6	3
Total	41	34	28	50	21

STATION 03: DESIGN CONCEPTS

At this station, participants were asked to share their feedback on targeted improvements to six parks in Foster City across three different boards. There was one board for Leo J Ryan, one board for Edgewater Park, Sea Cloud Park, and one board for Boothbay Park, and Gull Park. The boards



include illustrations for enhanced recreation, access, and amenities. The concept designs were developed through community engagement and incorporate best practices in park planning. Participants were also invited to add any additional thoughts for park improvements.

Prompt: "What are your favorite design ideas? Indicate your top 3 with a dot"



The activated waterfront idea at Leo J Ryan resonated with participants, as it received the most dots. Event spaces and Nature hub received four dots each, followed by the water terrace with three dots, and the gateway harbor with one dot. Boat and dock rental received no dots, while one comment for water terrace thought the idea was "too dangerous" for Leo J Ryan.

Prompt: "Any additional thoughts?"

Many of the comments for Leo J Ryan focus on pickleball. The top two comments that received the most stickers are other participants highlighted, adding shade to the gathering area near the courts and resurfacing existing courts as they're too slippery. The comment with the second highest total highlighted better lighting for the middle court. The other comments for Leo J Ryan covered a variety

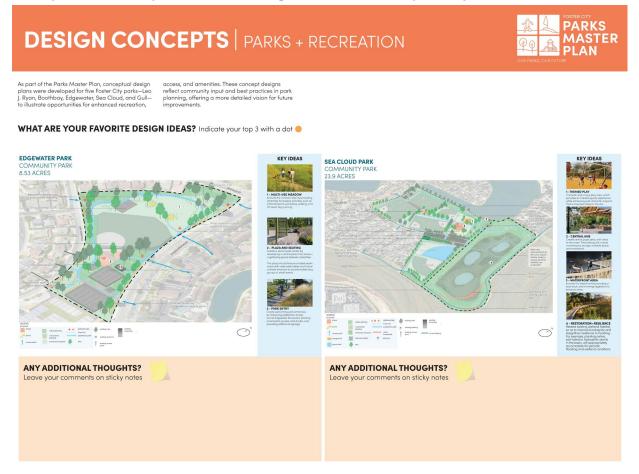


of different desires, from park interaction with the lagoon to improvements in bathrooms and more recreational amenities and new park experiences.

- "Bocce Courts Need fences and handrails. 95% of the time it's 55 years old and older crowd. Need shade to cover the morning and afternoon sun. No fences = liability" (1 sticker)
- "Lighting for pickleball to be improved" (3 stickers)
- "Pickleball courts: better lighting for middle court" (5 stickers)
- "Pickleball: please add shade at the gathering area" (6 stickers)
- "The pickleball courts are very slippery. They need to be resurfaced" (6 stickers)
- "Way more open air seating maybe concession kiosks along water"
- "This is a boating community. There should be docks along the boardwalk"
- "Stationary bikes"
- "Need bathroom on west side"
- "Provide birds, shorebirds friendly environment. Planting, etc."
- "Clean litter at pickleball courts" (2 stickers)
- "Ease up the traffic at Shell Blvd corner"
- "Shade structure for stage area and seating"
- "Zip line"
- "Control goose population"
- "Restaurant on the boardwalk for boats to park in slots"
- "Boardwalk into the lagoon with seating"
- "Coffee shop"
- "Outdoor vending machine"
- "More boat docks"
- "Exercise equipment"
- "Speed limits for bicycles & skateboarders on the lagoon boardwalk"
- "Outside shower to hose off after swimming"
- "Dog swimming area with hoses to wash them off after swimming"
- "Café"
- "Support for 2, 4, 6"
- "More event/amphitheater space"
- "Pedestrian bridge to Safeway"
- "Add Olyns Recycling to Rec Center"



Prompt: "What are your favorite design ideas? Indicate your top 3 with a dot"



Both design concepts for Edgewater Park and Sea Cloud Park did not receive any comments, but participants did support the key ideas by placing stickers in support. The key idea with the most support was creating a Waterfront Area at Sea Cloud Park. At Edgewater Park, the Multi-use Meadow and Plaza and Seating received one sticker. All other key ideas at both parks received two stickers.

Prompt: "Any additional thoughts?"

Feedback for Edgewater Park includes a suggestion to add fitness stations. For Sea Cloud Park, community comments emphasize preserving and enhancing natural areas, with requests to keep the wetland open and wild, maintain the ecological reserve, and highlight opportunities for wildlife viewing.

Edgewater Park

"Fitness stations"



Sea Cloud Park

- "Leave the wetland open! Leave it wild"
- "Continue the ecological reserve area"
- "Wildlife viewing great spot"

Prompt: "What are your favorite design ideas? Indicate your top 3 with a dot"



At Boothbay Park, the multi-purpose lawn idea received the most stickers with four. Enhanced play received three votes, and the central plaza hub received three votes. At Gull Park, the decks along the water idea received three votes, the most of any key idea for Gull Park. The intimate beach and enhanced beach each received two votes for Gull Park design concepts. One participant left a comment requesting expanded seating for Boothbay Park. At Gull Park, one participant left a comment about improving the water quality.



STATION 04: PARK BY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

In addition to the park design concepts, participants were asked to share feedback on high-level improvement recommendations for all other Foster City parks. Through extensive community engagement and existing conditions analysis, the recommendations for each park aim to ensure consistent quality, accessibility, and functionality throughout the park system. In this station, there were two boards combining for a total of 17 parks. Nine parks received feedback.

Prompt: "What do you think of the following proposed improvements? Write your ideas below"

PARK BY PARK IMPROVEMENTS | PARKS + RECREATION



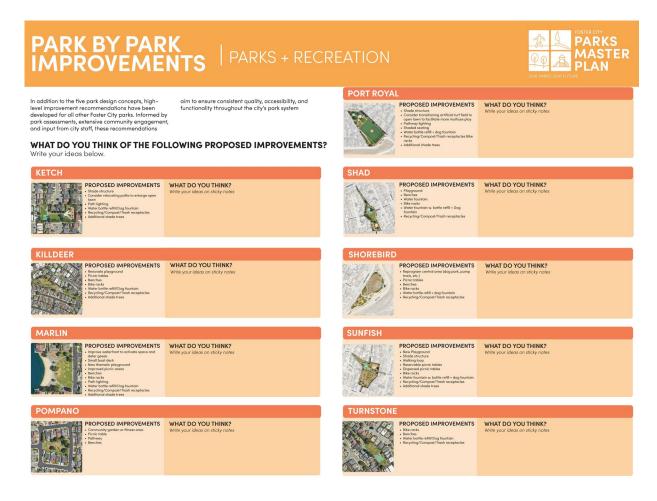
In addition to the five park design concepts, highlevel improvement recommendations have been developed for all other Foster City parks. Informed by park assessments, extensive community engagement, and input from city staff, these recommendations aim to ensure consistent quality, accessibility, and

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS?



WHAT DO YOU THINK? PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS WHAT DO YOU THINK? PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS WHAT DO YOU THINK?





Participants emphasized the need for environmental enhancements, such as more shade, trees, and plantings to enhance beauty, provide cooling, and support wildlife such as pollinators. Site furnishing amenities such as picnic tables, seating areas, and wind breaks were common requests, along with improvements to existing structures, better bathroom facilities, and specific park enhancements like boating stations, bird-watching areas, and calm garden spaces. Participants also highlighted maintenance concerns, including water fountains repairs, cleaning beaches, addressing drainage issues, and keeping parks visually appealing. Overall, the feedback reflects a strong desire for more recreational amenities that are thoughtfully placed and consider environmental stewardship.



Table 5 - Park-Specific Improvement Recommendations

Park	Comment
Arcturus	 "More trees and shrubs along the home + fence line" "Updates structures" "Picnic tables" "Shade, lots of trees, small flower plant"
Boat/Dog	 "Water fountain at boat park needs repair" "Need water supply for cleaning owner boats + a boating station"
Bridgeview	 "Love the succulents" "More visible" "Bird watching" "Reservable picnic area with shade"
Catamaran	 "Please no more pickleball" "More wind breaks and shade" "Many more tables + chairs, some shade and sun cover" "Geese = yucky"
Erckenbrack	 "This is the most pitiful, ugly park I have seen, need plants to make it pretty" "Clean the beach" "Nerby pocket parks and trails"
Farragut	 "Calm sitting garden opposite side of new rose garden"
Port Royal	 "Please upgrade the bathroom to a double – the old isn't single enough" "Kill roots in drain so it flows flush out sand" "Shaded seating & structure please"
Shorebird	 "Native plants for pollinators + insects – would require less water. It would be long term and beautify the trail. Trees provide shade"
Sunfish	 "Highly recommend placing signs to the public on why not to feed wildlife, crows, geese, etc."

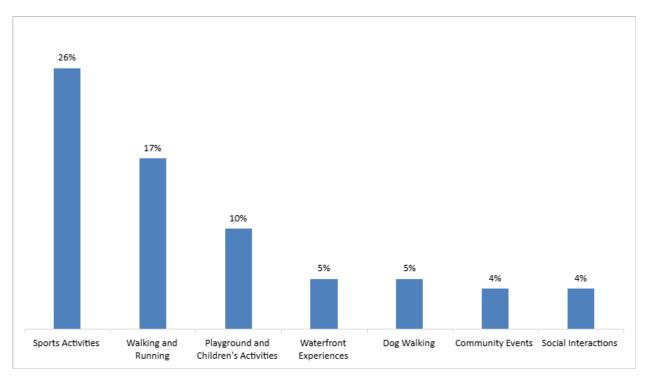


SURVEY

A digital survey that mirrored content from the workshop and pop-ups was open on the City's website between July 1 and July 27. Overall, **275** people responded to the survey. The survey consisted of eight questions that asked respondents about how they enjoy Foster City parks, their favorite ideas from the park design concepts, and which parks in the system need improvements.

Question #1: What do you most enjoy doing in Foster City parks? (open-ended)

The top three themes that were mentioned in response to Question #1 revolved around sports activities, walking and running, and playground and children's activities. Other themes included waterfront experiences and dog walking, as well as community events, social interactions, and park amenities. Nature and wildlife observation and picnicking received fewer mentions.





Sports Activities

- Pickleball (20)
- Tennis (2)
- Basketball (2)
- Exercise/Fitness (4)
- Windsurfing (2)
- Wing foiling (2)
- Kayaking in lagoon (2)
- Boating (1)
- Sports (general) (3)

Walking & Biking

- Walking (general) (6)
- Walking my dog / with my dog (9)
- Walking in parks/trails with nature or lagoon views (4)
- Biking (1)

Playground and Children's Activities

- Playgrounds (general) (16)
- Shaded playgrounds (2)
- Watching my kids play (5)
- Exploring nature with kids (1)
- Preschool-age play (1)

Waterfront & Nature Experiences

- Enjoying waterways/lagoon views (5)
- Birding / Nature Watching (3)
- Waterfront walking (2)
- Water access (1)
- Water activities (general) (1)



Community Events

- Summer concerts (5)
- Summer Days (3)
- Other community events (general) (5)
- Off the Grid events (2)
- Events at Leo J. Ryan Park (3)

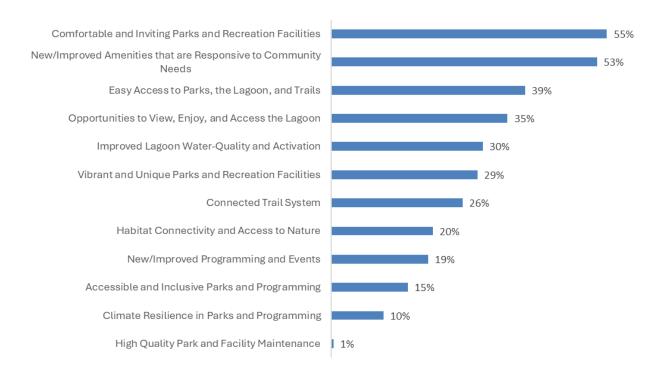
Social Interaction

- Socializing at sports courts (1)
- Picnics (2)
- Picnicking with friends/family (4)
- Birthday parties (1)
- Play dates (1)
- People-watching (1)
- Relaxing with others (2)
- Group gatherings (general) (2)



Question #2: What parks and recreation policies are most important to you? (select your top 3)

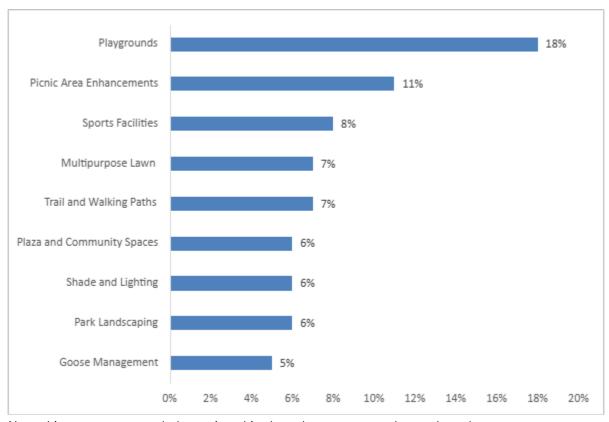
When asked about which parks and recreation policies were most important, more than half of respondents selected either *Comfortable and Inviting Parks and Recreation Facilities* and/or *New/Improved Amenities that are Responsive to Community Needs*. The next three policies with the most support were *Easy Access to Parks, the Lagoon, and Trails, Opportunities to view, enjoy, and access the lagoon,* and *Improved lagoon water-quality and activation*. There were four other policies that did not end up in any respondents top three, three of which were related to Department efficiency and operations.





Question #3: What are your favorite design ideas for <u>Boothbay Park?</u> What additional thoughts do you have? (open-ended)

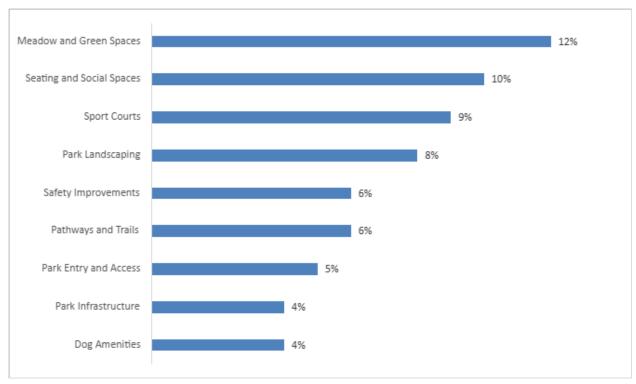
The design idea themes with the highest number of mentions in the comments centered around playgrounds (18%), picnic areas (11%), and sports facilities (8%). Many comments around the picnic areas mention adding additional shade and the comments for sports facilities, including adding pickleball ball lines on existing tennis courts.





Question #4: What are your favorite design ideas for <u>Edgewater Park?</u> What additional thoughts do you have? (open-ended)

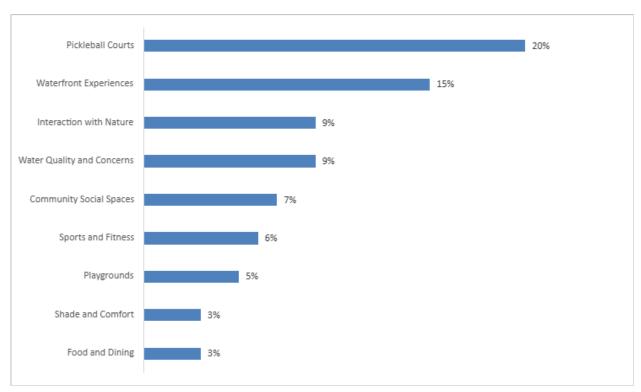
The top themes for Edgewater Park were meadow and green spaces (12%), seating and social spaces (10%), and sport courts (9%). One comment about the meadow at Edgewater Park mentioned creating a meadow that geared towards natural open space, and less recreational. Respondents supported seating within the park, especially around the tennis courts. For court facilities, many responses mentioned better management of how space is divided between basketball, tennis, and pickleball to better handle user capacity.





Question #5: What are your favorite design ideas for <u>Leo J Ryan Park</u>? What additional thoughts do you have? (open-ended)

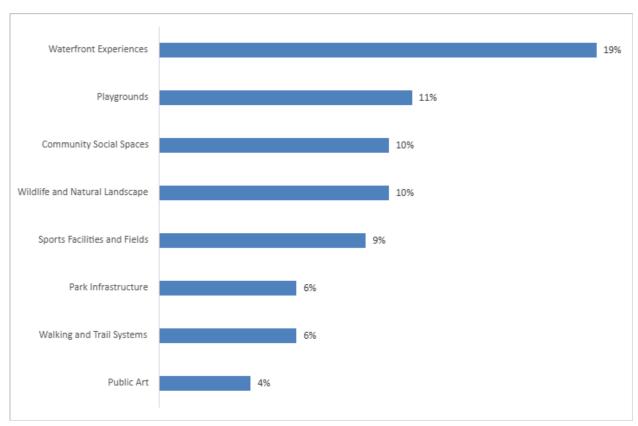
For Leo J. Ryan Park, the most frequently mentioned topic was pickleball court management (20%), followed by waterfront experiences (15%). Three other key themes ranked third in most mentioned ideas - ecosystem and nature (9%) and water quality concerns (9%). Pickleball court management and waterfront activation are repeated themes for Leo J Ryan Park, both in the survey and in-person engagement. For the three other major themes, many respondents in the survey mentioned more native plants and opportunities to engage with nature. Many respondents appreciate the waterfront activation and lagoon interaction opportunities but stress the desire for water quality improvement.





Question #6: What are your favorite design ideas for Sea Cloud Park? What additional thoughts do you have? (open-ended)

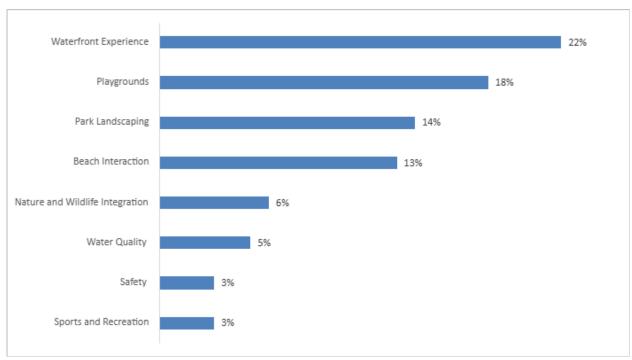
Waterfront activation was the most frequently mentioned theme (19%), followed by playgrounds (11%), community social spaces (10%), and wildlife and natural landscapes (10%). Many respondents supported enhancing waterfront access and creating scenic views of the lagoon from Sea Cloud Park. While recognizing the park's important role in accommodating sports facilities, respondents also voiced strong support for spaces that foster social interaction and host citywide events. Wetland restoration was another popular idea, with many respondents supporting ecosystem and wildlife benefits and new purpose to the park.





Question #7: What are your favorite design ideas for Gull Park? What additional thoughts do you have? (open-ended)

For Gull Park, the most mentioned topic was water access and design (22%), followed by playgrounds (18%), park landscaping (14%), and beach management (13%). Many respondents supported the decks along the water, which bring visitors closer to the lagoon. Balancing this increased access with water quality management emerged as a key priority. Several comments noted that ecotone lagoon plantings could help mitigate geese problems while adding character to the park. The beach was also mentioned frequently, with many respondents supporting a smaller beach to make it easier to manage.





Question #8: Are there other parks that need particular attention? If so, what kinds of improvements are needed? (open-ended)

Marlin Park was the most frequently mentioned park, with 6 mentions. Shorebird, Catamaran, Erkenbrack, Sunfish, and Farragut Parks were mentioned 3 times, and Ketch, Bridgeview, and Kildeer park were mentioned twice.

The most frequently mentioned park improvement was maintenance, accounting for 12% of responses. Many respondents enjoy the facilities in their parks but noted that small maintenance changes could make a big difference. Other top themes included wildlife management and waterfront experiences (6% each). The geese continue to leave their mark on Foster City parks, and respondents suggested incorporating geese mitigation into park planning and future improvements. Many also expressed interest in more interaction with the lagoon as long as water quality can be improved.

