

# FoSAP

Friends of San Antonio Park

## COMMUNITY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS



*friends of*  
SAN ANTONIO PARK



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# **FOSAP COMMUNITY REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTENTIONS

*FOSAP's commitment to engaging and representing the San Antonio neighborhood should earn us a seat at the table working with the City's Planning Team to create a unified Master Plan that represents the best possible future for our community.*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTENTIONS

**F**riends of San Antonio Park (FOSAP) formed in April 2021 to ensure that long-term residents of all ages living close to San Antonio Park, and families and youth attending the schools near the park, would be adequately represented in the Master Planning process for San Antonio Park. It is our belief that the San Antonio Park Master Plan should prioritize the needs and visions of these constituents. FOSAP is uniquely positioned to conduct community engagement with these constituents as its member organizations represent the largest, and longest standing community non-profits operating in the neighborhood and schools immediately adjacent to the park.

FOSAP worked with D2 Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas to advocate for the extension of the San Antonio Master Planning process to ensure adequate community engagement. From August through November 2021, FOSAP led a Community Visioning Process which consisted of three large meetings in San Antonio Park and associated outreach.

An analysis of the community input and ideas captured during the first two meetings and community outreach in August and September, led FOSAP to develop four Community Recommendations, which were reviewed and “ratified” by the San Antonio community during our last Community Visioning Meeting in October and the following weeks. This process resulted in the following four Community Recommendations:

- 1) Expand Park Programming:** We recommend to the City of Oakland that it enter a formal multi-year agreement with FOSAP member organizations to expand the schedule of community serving programs, activities, and events operating at San Antonio Park.
- 2) Construct Community Center with a Library and Sports Deck.** We recommend to the City of Oakland that a new, multi-purpose, multi-generational Community Center, inclusive of a new public library and a roof-top sport deck, be constructed on the footprint currently containing the tennis courts.
- 3) Repair Park Infrastructure:** We recommend a range of immediate and medium term repairs to San Antonio Park's built infrastructure, with the immediate priority being the renovation of the Tot Lot and Children's Play area into a common and expanded location.
- 4) Strengthen Park Stewardship:** We recommend the City of Oakland and FOSAP enter into a formal multi-year agreement to establish and implement Park Stewardship standards, roles, and accountability.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTENTIONS (continues)



*We hope this effort, and the actions that follow mark the start of a new chapter for San Antonio Park, and a renewed commitment by both City of Oakland staff and officials, and neighborhood leaders to work in new and productive ways towards a thriving park.*

FOSAP plans to work closely with City Officials to ensure that these recommendations are incorporated into the San Antonio Master Plan and the ongoing management plans for the park. These recommendations are the result of a huge output of time and effort by over 340 community members who took time over several weekends to engage in shaping the future of their park and by the community organizations and volunteers who make up FOSAP. We hope that FOSAP's demonstrated commitment to engaging and representing the San Antonio neighborhood will earn us a spot at the table, to work side by side with the City's Planning Team to create a unified Master Plan that represents the best possible future for our community.

We hope this effort, and the actions that follow mark the start of a new chapter for San Antonio Park, and a renewed commitment by both City of Oakland staff and officials, and neighborhood leaders to work in new and productive ways towards a thriving park.





## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND ON FRIENDS OF SAN ANTONIO PARK

**CIP AWARDED  
IN 2020**

**CITY SELECTS  
CONSULTANT  
TEAM**

**THREE  
COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH  
MEETINGS  
SCHEDULED**

The City of Oakland announced in late fall of 2020 that San Antonio Park had been awarded Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding. Sean Maher, City Public Information Officer II, issued a citywide email blast requesting ideas for the CIP funding.

In January 2021, the City of Oakland, with the help of Luster Consultants, LCA Architects, and Keller Mitchell and Associates began conducting a Master Planning process for San Antonio Park. From January 2021 to April 2021, Luster Consultants led a community engagement process around the Master Planning process. For outreach, they sent mailed paper announcements encouraging residents within 1 mile of the park to attend three Zoom meetings and respond to two on-line surveys. They also reached out to community organizations in the neighborhood to forward emails to their mailing lists informing them of the community engagement meetings. Information about their process can be found here: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/sanantoniopark>

Friends of San Antonio Park formed because many community leaders were concerned that the consultant-led community engagement process was inadequate. These community leaders were concerned that the design choices offered to the community were too limited, and did not sufficiently prioritize the stated desires of people in the neighborhood with whom they had been working, specifically families attending Garfield Elementary School and Roosevelt Middle School, teens, and parents of small children. They felt that the community engagement process, which took place largely with on-line surveys and zoom meetings, did not sufficiently engage all community members and reflect what they were hearing at schools, on the street, and in the park. These desires included an expanded and re-imagined recreation center and extensive round the clock programming. Some of these desires had already been formally articulated, for example in the San Antonio Family Resource Center community visioning document, created by three community organizations with long term roots in the neighborhood over a months long community engagement process. They were also concerned that community members did not have any choice about certain elements of the design that would heavily impact the neighborhood, such as the relocation of a fire station into the park. Finally, they were concerned that opposition to certain elements of the plan, particularly the fire station, was not being heard by the planning team, and was not being captured in the formats they were using for community engagement, namely on-line surveys and zoom meetings.

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND ON FRIENDS OF SAN ANTONIO PARK (continues)

*Many directors of long-standing community non-profits and other community leaders, began sharing with each other their concerns and their constituents' concerns about the Community Engagement Process. They recognized a need to come together and collectively organize.*

Many directors of long-standing community non-profits and other community leaders began sharing with each other their concerns and their constituents' concerns about the consultant-led Community Engagement Process. They recognized a need to come together and collectively organize. These community leaders decided to form Friends of San Antonio Park to ensure that the voices of the neighborhood immediately surrounding the park, its school communities and long term residents, were properly represented in the Master Planning process for the park. Friends of San Antonio Park is anchored by the following organizations and leaders: East Bay Asian Youth Center and E.D. David Kakishiba, Trybe and E.D. Andrew Park, Eastside Arts Alliance and Collective Member Elena Serrano, Lotus Bloom and E.D. Angela Louie Howard and Director of Programs Dawn Edwards, San Antonio Family Resource Center Parent Action Research Team and coordinator Liz Sullivan, and San Antonio Park Steward Wendy Jung. Key staff and volunteers from these organizations as well as a few neighborhood residents have also played key roles in FOSAP leadership. They include Trybe Associate Director Karen Heida, Trybe Executive Assistant and Social Media Manager Lucia Lorea, Trybe Program Assistant Hector Cruz, Parent Action Research Team volunteer Teddie Morehead, EBAYC Community Organizer Evangelina Lara, EBAYC Roosevelt Middle School Managing Director Marisela DeAnda, neighborhood resident and architect Diego Gonzalez, and neighborhood resident and outdoor educator Mira Manickam-Shirley. Other neighborhood residents and members of the above organizations' constituencies have helped organize and execute FOSAP's work.

FOSAP has met weekly since its formation in April, with a collective leadership structure, with David Kakishiba of EBAYC acting as a senior decision maker when needed. At the time of FOSAP's formation, Eastside Arts Alliance had a grant of \$10,000 from the LISC foundation. This grant was originally associated with a soccer field renovation project LISC was planning in the park. After the city conducted their own soccer field renovation, the money was reallocated to supporting general community engagement in the park. This grant money constituted FOSAP's only dedicated funding stream for its operations in 2021. Beyond that, FOSAP has drawn from volunteer labor and the financial support of its member organizations to cover event costs and member organization staff time. The value of the hours put in by individuals working for FOSAP easily totals over \$100,000 over the course of the Community Engagement Process. FOSAP member organizations have prioritized the work of FOSAP for their staff and within their budgets. They have done this because FOSAP's work contributes directly to their missions by engaging their constituents to shape the future of their own neighborhood and by working towards a thriving park that serves their constituents' needs.

It should be noted that while concern about the relocation of Fire station 4 was a catalyzing factor for the formation of FOSAP, FOSAP's primary goal since its formation has been to conduct rigorous on-the-ground, in-person outreach, to learn and represent the desires of long-term neighborhood residents and the surrounding school communities. All FOSAP members agreed that whatever stance the group took on this topic would be informed by the community.



Shape a  
healthy future.

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND OF THE FOSAP-LED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

### FOSAP-LED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

*FOSAP wanted to create a forum for neighbors to meet, learn, converse, and put their hopes and desires forward, and imagine what it would look like to have a thriving and healthy San Antonio Park that supports a thriving and healthy neighborhood.*

In May and June, Friends of San Antonio Park worked with District 2 Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas to ensure two key developments in the Master Planning Process for San Antonio Park:

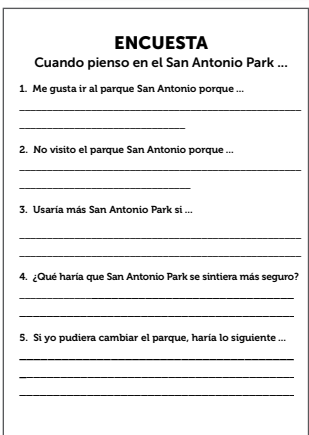
- The removal and separation of the Fire Station 4 relocation process from the San Antonio Master Planning process so that the Fire Station relocation and the San Antonio Master Planning process were two separate processes, and multiple sites would be considered for the Fire Station relocation.
- Extending the Master Planning process to engage considerably more neighborhood residents and current and potential park users in establishing priorities for park improvement. FOSAP proposed and pledged to work closely with City Administration to organize and facilitate a robust resident-led planning process for the park.

FOSAP wanted to create a forum for neighbors to meet, learn, converse, and put their hopes and desires forward, and imagine what it would look like to have a thriving and healthy San Antonio Park that supports a thriving and healthy neighborhood. FOSAP is uniquely positioned to conduct such outreach as it has extensive experience with community outreach, and its member organizations represent the largest, and longest standing community non-profits operating on the ground, closest to the park, and in the park-adjacent school communities.

At the time of proposing these changes to the Master Planning process, FOSAP had hoped that the extended community engagement process conducted in August, September and October would be co-planned and financed in partnership between the city's planning team and FOSAP, with both parties working hand in hand. Early conversations indicated that the city planning team and FOSAP held very different visions for the outcomes of the meetings. It was unclear that these differences would be resolved in the timeline allocated in the extended community engagement process (August through October). Thus the decision was made by FOSAP to proceed with holding Community Visioning Meetings, with the support of D2 Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas. These meetings were financed almost entirely through FOSAP member organizations operating budgets and FOSAP volunteer labor, with additional support from D2 Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas's office.

City staff supported FOSAP's community engagement process through their attendance at several of the Community Visioning Meetings. This made the meetings much stronger, and helped build trust and relationship between FOSAP members and constituents, and city officials and staff. Invitations were extended to Heads of all the City Departments involved in, or impacted by, the San Antonio Park Master Planning Process. These departments included: Department of

# CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND ON FRIENDS OF SAN ANTONIO PARK (continues)



**Survey samples shown above in Spanish**

Public Works, Office of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development, Department of Human Services, Oakland Fire Department, Oakland Public Library, Office of Race and Equity, and Planning and Building. Invitations were also extended to the City’s planning team for the San Antonio Master Plan, as well as our PRAC representative Jinhee Ha. All of these officials, plus additional staff and personnel attended at least one of our Community Visioning Meetings. The last meeting was also attended by City Administrator Ed Reiskin.

All meetings were held outdoors in San Antonio Park on Saturdays from 10am to 12:30pm. All meetings included complimentary breakfast coffee and snacks, and lunch at the end. The first of these meetings was conducted in 4 languages, English, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese with all printed materials available in all 4 languages. In addition survey cards in all 4 languages were distributed and collected throughout the month of August from those who could not attend the meeting. Our second and third meetings were conducted in English, Chinese, and Spanish. Care was taken to ensure strong COVID safety protocols, and to ensure language specific small group set ups, with separate groups for youth. Each meeting welcomed all ages and included activities for small children too young to participate in youth engagement groups.

Outreach for the meetings was conducted through a variety of forums. Each of the member organizations sent emails through their mailing lists and distributed flyers in 4 languages to their constituents. For example, EBAYC distributed flyers to parents at back to school events at Roosevelt Middle School and Garfield Elementary School, and Trybe distributed flyers at their weekly food distribution event at San Antonio Park and their other weekly family events throughout the neighborhood. In person outreach was conducted with local churches, community groups, and early childhood education programs, including the Intertribal Friendship House, Harbor House, St. James Church, St. Anthony’s Church and School, Community School for Creative Education, Manzanita Child Development Center, Bella Vista Child Development Center and the San Antonio Community Development Corporation Head Start. In person outreach in and around the park and from neighbor to neighbor also took place. For example, each member of San Antonio Family Resource Center’s Parent Action Research team, a group of parents of young children in the neighborhood, committed to bringing 10 people to the first community engagement meeting. After the first two meetings, FOSAP also texted, emailed, or called attendees of the earlier meetings to remind them and encourage them to attend the next meeting.

The first two Community Visioning Meetings in August and September were attended by well over 125 people. Outreach and a request for feedback on the Draft Community Recommendations continued until November 23, and engaged 207 people, who submitted feedback via 128 paper ballots and 79 online ballots. In total, over 340 separate individuals, ages 9 to 90, provided feedback over the course of the FOSAP led Community Engagement Process.





# **OUTCOMES AND FINDINGS OF FOSAP-LED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

**August:**

**Listening and Visioning**

**September:**

**What's Here Now and  
What We Would Like to See  
in the Future**

**October and November:**

**Reviewing the Recommendations**

**Addenda**

# AUGUST: LISTENING AND VISIONING

**OVER 100  
SMALL GROUP  
PARTICIPANTS**

**SMALL LISTENING  
GROUP FORMAT**

**DESIGN  
CHARRETTES  
SHOWING FOUR  
DESIGN OPTIONS  
(see our website)**

**STICKER DOT  
VOTING**

**O**n August 28, 2021 over 130 park neighbors of all ages gathered in the Oak Grove by San Antonio Recreation Center. This group included, among others, about 25 students from Roosevelt Middle School and several of their parents. Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas co-hosted the meeting and addressed the community along with community leaders who welcomed neighbors in 4 different languages. Ten facilitators from the San Antonio community hosted ten listening sessions in small groups of 8 to 15 participants. Facilitators were available to host groups in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Vietnamese. While this happened, activities for kids were provided by Trybe on the adjacent lawn. Several city staff and officials attended the meeting. They included Oakland Fire Department Deputy Chief Melinda Drayton, OFD Chief of Staff Michael Hunt, OFD Battalion Chief James Bowden, Oakland Public Library Director Jamie Turbak, Director of the Department of Human Services Sara Bedford, Oakland Public Works Park Services Manager Brian Carthan, Recreation General Supervisor Donte Watson and additional staff from OPRYD, Mi Kyung Lew of Planning and Building, Sean Maher of Communications, and staff of Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas and Council Member Noel Gallo.

## What happened in the small group sessions:

- **Listening and Surveys:** Participants had a group discussion about why they did or did not use San Antonio Park and what changes they'd like to see in San Antonio Park. Responses were recorded on large posters, and each participant had an opportunity to fill out a survey (available in 4 languages) with their personal responses to questions on this topic. Survey cards were also collected from neighbors who could not attend the meeting.
- **Charrettes:** Participants viewed 4 different design ideas to inspire them to think of new possibilities for the park. The designs were presented on large poster boards in each small group, with talking points in 4 languages. After seeing each design, participants had a chance to note their thoughts and questions about each design using post it notes. All drawings are on our website at [friendsofsapark.org/jan2022reportaddenda](https://friendsofsapark.org/jan2022reportaddenda). The drawings include:
  - **Design 1:** A re-imagined park entryway and expanded Community Center with a Social Hall in the current Recreation Center location
  - **Design 2:** A Community Center complex with multi-sport deck in the tennis court area
  - **Design 3:** The City of Oakland's most recent Master Plan options, with various new park amenities, and Fire Station 4 replacing the bottom two tennis courts in all designs
  - **Design 4:** An amendment to the City of Oakland's proposed fire station relocation, which included lifting up all the tennis courts to create a multi-sports deck and adding a new recreation center under the upper 2 tennis courts, to accompany the Fire Station.
- **Sticker Dot Voting:** Participants had a chance to express support for the things that they most wanted to see in the park, and express opposition to the things that they did not want to see in the park. Each group had a poster board that compiled all the possible park additions presented in the 4 designs. Participants could add new ideas to this list. With the additions generated by the various groups, 78 possible park additions were presented and voted on. Each participant received 5 "yes" stickers and 5 "no" stickers which they could place next to whatever park additions they most wanted to see and that they most opposed. Sticker dot voting was conducted by all groups on August 28, as well as with staff of the event who are also regular park users and/or neighbors.



Sticker Dot Voting



Youth Session from  
Roosevelt Middle School

# AUGUST: LISTENING AND VISIONING (continues)

## Survey Findings at a glance

Based on 131 Completed Surveys, we learned:

### What we Like about San Antonio Park?

- open space, nature, spaciousness, beauty, views, trees, fresh air (52 responses)
- close and convenient (24 responses)
- our kids play here (23 responses)

### What we Dislike about San Antonio Park?

- doesn't feel safe (52 responses)
- lack of maintenance, trash, broken, outdated play structures and facilities (25 responses)

### People Would Use the Park More if ...

- it was cleaner and better maintained (57 responses)
- it felt safe (40 responses)
- there was more programming, activities, and presence of people using the park for its intended use (26 responses)

**Results of Sticker Dot Voting: Each voter had 5 “yes votes” and 5 “no votes”. 516 “Yes” votes and 394 “No” votes were cast.**

- Most Popular Possible Addition to the Park — a library (66 yes responses)
- Least Popular Possible Addition to the Park — a fire station (102 no responses)

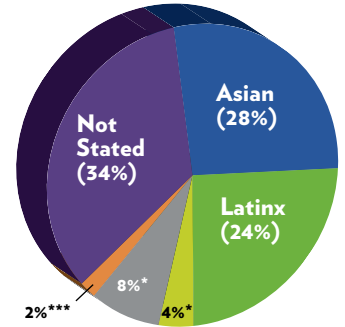
Visit [friendsofsapark.org/jan2022reportaddenda](http://friendsofsapark.org/jan2022reportaddenda) for more details on sticker dot voting results, survey results, and recorded data from small group listening.



**131 Unduplicated Survey Respondents**  
**105 completed surveys at August Meeting.**  
**26 additional surveys received online (2),**  
**at facilitator training (4), and via commitment cards**  
**distributed before the event (20).**

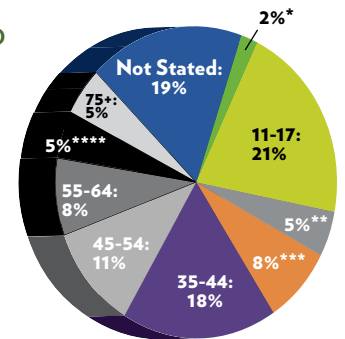
**CHART 1: RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND**

Not Stated	34%
Asian	28%
Latinx	24%
White*	8%
Black**	4%
More than one race/ethnicity***	2%



**CHART 2: AGE (SEE NOTES)**

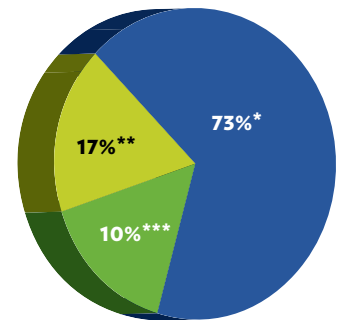
Not Stated	19%
9 to 10*	1%
11 to 17	21%
18 to 24**	5%
25 to 34***	8%
35 to 44	18%
45 to 54	11%
55 to 64	8%
65 to 74****	5%
75 and up	5%



\*Note: 20 respondents filled out commitment card surveys which did not request age data. Percentages may not add up perfectly to 100 since percentage segments were rounded to the nearest whole number.

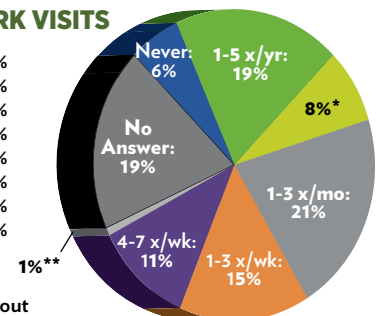
**CHART 3: PROXIMITY TO PARK**

73%*	Lives or attends school (Roosevelt) within 94606 zip code or 1 mile radius
17%**	Address NOT in 94606 or 1 mile radius
10%***	Address not provided



**CHART 4: FREQUENCY OF PARK VISITS**

Never	6%
1-5 times a year:	19%
6-10 times a year*:	8%
1-3 times a month:	21%
1-3 times a week:	15%
4-7 times a week:	11%
1+times a day**	1%
No Answer	19%



Note: 20 respondents filled out commitment card surveys which did not request information about frequency of park visitation

# SEPTEMBER: WHAT'S HERE NOW AND WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE FUTURE

**OVER 125 PARTICIPANTS**

**MANY CITY LEADERS ATTENDED**

**FIVE STATIONS FOR SMALL LISTENING GROUP MEETINGS ON THESE TOPICS AND ISSUES:**

- SAFETY
- COMMUNITY CENTER
- GARDENS & MAINTENANCE
- ARTS/CULTURE
- SPORTS

On September 25, over 125 park neighbors and their family members gathered in San Antonio Park for an interactive meeting with the following goals:

1. To share information about what is currently happening in San Antonio
2. To hear residents' questions, feedback, and ideas about what they would like to see in San Antonio Park.

After the first FOSAP-led community engagement meeting in August, it became clear that many residents had limited interaction with the park for a variety of reasons including a sense that it was unsafe, poorly maintained, and that there was a lack of programming and activities. Therefore, FOSAP felt it was important in this September meeting to share information with residents about the successful initiatives that have occurred in the park. This would provide residents with a better understanding of what was already available to them, so they could build on this knowledge with ideas of what they would like to see in the future.

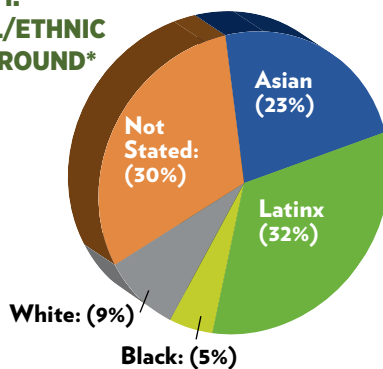
### Who Attended:

On September 25, 128 people received programs, and visited the various information stations. Many of these folks were accompanied by other family members, including children who participated in the children's activity area or accompanied their parents from station to station. In attendance were about 25 students from Roosevelt Middle School and several of their parents and teachers.

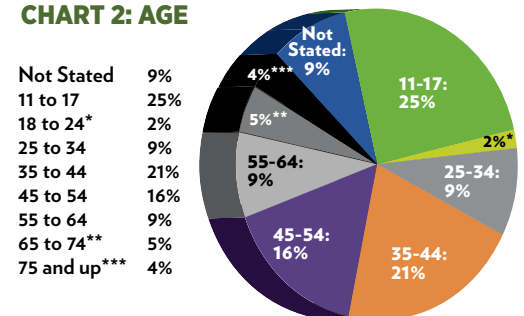
The emphasis of this meeting was on providing information, having conversations, and sharing ideas. All residents were provided with programs which included response forms, on which they could note their questions, responses, ideas and contact information. Because of the decentralized nature of the meeting which included moving around from station to station, only 56 people submitted these programs with their registration information at the end of the meeting. Thus we are only able to report demographic information and form responses from a sample of those who were present.

### Demographic and Age Information Gathered from 56 Form Respondents.

**CHART 1: RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND\***



**CHART 2: AGE**



\*Note: Percentages may not add up perfectly to 100 since percentage segments were rounded to the nearest whole number.

**45 (80%) of the 56 form respondents reported living or attending school within 1 mile of the park or within the 94606 zip code.**

## SEPTEMBER: WHAT'S HERE NOW AND WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE FUTURE (continues)

Several City of Oakland officials, department leaders, and department staff attended. In attendance were:

- **District 2 CP Nikki Fortunato Bas Office:** CP Bas and Lia Salaverry
- **Office of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development:** Director Nick Williams
- **Oakland Public Works:** Director G. Harold Duffey, Park; Supervisors Clinton Pugh and Kevin Charles
- **Planning and Building:** Mi Kyung Lew
- **Communications:** Public Information Officer II Sean Maher
- **Oakland Library:** Director Jamie Turbak
- **Oakland Fire Department:** Deputy Chief Melinda Drayton, Chief of Staff Michael Hunt
- **Department of Human Services:** Director Sara Bedford

### Group Rotation and Structure of the Day:

Five different groups rotated among five stations. Each Group had 10-30 people in it at any given time.

### Group Configurations:

- **Two student groups from Roosevelt Middle School**
- **Spanish-speaking adults and families**
- **Chinese-speaking adults and families**
- **English-speaking adults and families**

### Group Focus Areas and Leaders:

- 1 **Safety** - Liz Sullivan (San Antonio Family Resource Center), Jonathan Mann, Park Ambassador (Trybe)
- 2 **Community Center** - Lucia Lorea (Trybe), Karen Heida (Trybe)
- 3 **Landscaping and Maintenance** - Wendy Jung (Park Steward), OPW, Kevin Charles, Park Supervisor II
- 4 **Sports** - Diego Gonzalez (neighbor and regular soccer player, FOSAP member, and owner, Orta Design Studio), Intern DeSean Taylor (Vertical Skillz boxing program)
- 5 **Arts/Culture/Library** - Elena Serrano and Susanne Takehara (Eastside Arts Alliance), Jamie Turbak (Director, Oakland Library)

Each of the five stations was led by a community member and/or FOSAP leader personally connected to the topic. In most cases group leaders were representatives of organizations providing services in the park relating to the topic.

### Group Intentions:

- To facilitate language translation by keeping speakers of the same language together.
- To ensure that Roosevelt students were in groups consisting only of youth. We know that young people express themselves more freely with peers, as compared to when they are placed in mixed groups with adults.

### Individual Station Goals:

- To share with participants what is currently happening at the park related to these five subject areas.
- To gather participant questions and suggestions for what they would like to see in the future related to these five subject areas.

### Two Ways to Participate at Each Station:

- Sharing verbally with facilitators recording their ideas on a newsprint pad.
- Submitting a written form sharing their “**wows**” - what they were impressed with from what they learned, their “**wonders**” - what additional questions they have, and their “**what else**” - what they would like to see in the park in the future.

## SEPTEMBER: SUMMARY OF STATION DISCUSSIONS (continues)

**IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING ALL STATION REPORTING.** The text and bullet pointed summaries for each station below were developed by cross-referencing three sources of data: 1) the newsprint notes of participant comments taken by facilitators, 2) the written response forms submitted by 56 of the over 128 participants, 3) the verbal report back that the station leaders shared with FOSAP after the September 25 meeting.



### Station #1: SAFETY

#### Information shared with participants

**Safety was the number one issue brought up by participants in our August 28 listening sessions** about why they don't use the park, and what they wish to see improved. Many, though not all, recommended armed security to make the park safer. At this station, **Liz Sullivan** of San Antonio Family Resource Center shared research from the National Parks and Recreation Association about the key factors affecting park safety. These studies show that the number one factor impacting park safety, much more than armed police, is increased park activation and programming. These findings have been corroborated by many other research groups as well as by the lived experience of many park users. She was joined by **Jonathan Mann** from Trybe. They described Trybe's Park Ambassador program. Neighbors wear brightly marked vests, have a regular visible presence, serve as "community eyes" in the park, and escort park users to and from their cars. Jonathan shared his own personal experience as a youth growing up in the neighborhood, and passing through the park every day on his way to Roosevelt Middle School, and what it has been like for him to take on a leadership role in keeping the park safe for kids like himself.

This station was located near the children's playground because at our August 28 meeting, many families complained about groups of men who loiter and drink alcohol at the picnic tables in and next to the children's area. Some of these men were present when we were setting up our meeting station.

#### Comments from Newsprint

Participants generated many ideas, several of them quite creative, about how to increase safety in the park. Here are some topics that were extensively discussed and/or mentioned in more than one group session.

- **Strong interest in Trybe's Ambassador Program.** Some participants wanted to become volunteers.
- **Concerns about bathroom safety, cleanliness, location, and lighting.** Suggestions included having multiple locations for restrooms, utilizing a translucent ceiling for better visibility, raised bathroom walls so you could see who is in the bathroom, and more bathrooms instead of port-a-potties.
- **The importance of fixing, activating, adding new lighting and illuminating walkways throughout the Park.** Solar lighting/motion-activated lighting were also recommended.
- **Playground safety was discussed as well as the desire for new playground equipment.** The distance between the Tot Lot and the children's playground makes it difficult for parents to supervise all their children at once. It was suggested that the two areas be combined, expanded, and securely fenced.
- **The power of signage to share values (safe place for kids) and set a tone for park users.**
- Discussion about the **potential of festivals and regular events (Family Fridays) to activate the park, and build on the cultural diversity of the neighborhood.**

#### Survey Form Data

When reviewing response forms from the Safety Station, we noted how many times respondents mentioned either a positive response to, an inquiry about, or a desire for more information about these specific park items. The list includes only those issues receiving five or more mentions. These data function as a snapshot of questions and ideas that came up, rather than the results of a formal survey.

#### INTEREST IN:

Ambassadors/Patrol	11
Lighting	7
More Programming/ Classes/Events	7
Cameras	6

## SEPTEMBER: SUMMARY OF STATION DISCUSSIONS (continues)



### Station #2: COMMUNITY CENTER

#### Information was shared with participants

Karen Heida and Lucia Lorea of Trybe shared with participants about the many services that are available in the park both through Trybe and Head Start. Trybe organizes a massive food and diaper distribution program, the Park Ambassador Program, family fellowship events, Summer Camps for kids, and workshops and programs for adults and kids. The Department of Human Services oversees a Head Start Program in a building adjacent to the Recreation Center.

This station was located in the fenced courtyard shared by the Rec Center and Head Start. Many participants had never seen the inside of the Rec Center since the facility is rarely open to the public. Courtyard access is extremely limited by Head Start operating restrictions. Trybe holds its programs outdoors. It uses the Rec Center to store food, supplies and equipment.

#### Comments from Newsprint

Participants generated many ideas about what they would like to see at a Recreation Center in the future. The youth groups were especially creative and far-ranging in their ideas. Many families stayed after the session to sign up for Trybe's popular food distribution program. Here are some topics that were extensively discussed and/or mentioned in more than one group session.

- ESL services, literacy services.
- Computers and computer skills.
- Early childhood services, both childcare programs and early childhood enrichment and education for parents (like those offered by Lotus Bloom). Families who do not meet the low income threshold required by Head Start still wanted access to programming for their children.
- Multilingual services.
- Activities and space specifically for seniors.
- More cultural events at the park to celebrate the ethnic diversity of neighborhood.
- Youth asked for more sports like volleyball, football, skating, basketball gym, biking, camping, etc.
- Youth asked for enhancement programs like cooking classes, a dance studio, a dark room, a restaurant/cafe, a LGBT+ Community Center, party spaces, places for board games, art classes, and more.
- Other creative ideas included movie nights, camp outs, Tai Chi, Drum Circles, Binoculars for Estuary water views, a medicinal garden, yoga, etc.

#### Survey Form Data

When reviewing response forms from the Community Center Station, we noted how many times respondents mentioned either a positive response to, an inquiry about, or a desire for more information about these specific park items. The list includes only those issues receiving five or more mentions. These data function as a snapshot of questions and ideas that came up, rather than the results of a formal survey.

#### INTEREST IN:

General and Misc. After School/Youth Programming	7
Food Distribution	6
General/Misc Family Support	6
English Classes	5

## SEPTEMBER: SUMMARY OF STATION DISCUSSIONS (continues)



### Station #3: LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE

#### Information was shared with participants

Park Steward **Wendy Jung** presented an overview of the many ongoing volunteer efforts to maintain Park landscaping and infrastructure. She distributed a handout about city services, like bathroom cleaning, garbage can collection, litter pick up, lawn mowing, and tree care and which division was responsible. She also described volunteer actions since 2004 to plant and water trees and remove litter as well as two renovation projects to repair play areas, install artificial turf for the heavily utilized soccer field, and add more picnic tables and seating benches. Kevin Charles of OPW explained how residents can report maintenance problems to 311. Unfortunately, we were unable to schedule a representative from the City's Community Gardens to discuss that program and how to sign up.

#### Comments from Newsprint

Participants generated many ideas about topics regarding landscaping and maintenance issues. We covered a lot of ground! Issues mentioned in more than one group or that received extensive discussion in other groups regarding landscape and maintenance issues included:

- **More plants in the park, particularly colorful flowers and native plants.**

- **More access to the community garden, and possibly expanding that area.**
- **Opportunities to plant trees and remove litter.**
- **A great interest in trees: Labeling park trees by species.** Where to report an ailing tree? Roosevelt students suggested constructing a tree house and mounting swings on the large trees throughout the park.
- **Very strong feelings for and against the dog park.** If a dog area is added, it should be securely fenced and pet owners must remove the waste generated by their animals.
- **Safety concerns about homeless encampments.**
- **Cleaner surroundings and facilities, especially the bathrooms.**
- **The Chinese speaking group recommended a Chinese language hot line to report crime.** This group is extremely worried about personal safety. Many acknowledge that elders who used to walk the park regularly and practice tai chi have been afraid to visit the park for the last two years.
- **More trash pick up, recycling and compost bins.**
- **Roosevelt students had many exciting ideas including a petting zoo, a rock climbing area, a duck pond, a pop-up plant nursery, a tree house and tree swings.**

#### Survey Form Data

When reviewing response forms from the Landscape and Maintenance Station, we noted how many times respondents mentioned either a positive response to, an inquiry about, or a desire for more information about these specific items. The list includes only those issues receiving five or more mentions. These data function as a snapshot of questions and ideas that came up, rather than the results of a formal survey.

#### INTEREST IN:

More flowers and plants	9
More gardens or increased access to current garden	7
More trees and greenery, including fruit trees	5



## SEPTEMBER: SUMMARY OF STATION DISCUSSIONS (continues)



### Information was shared with participants

Elena Serrano and Susanne Takehara of Eastside Arts Alliance spoke about the annual cultural events in San Antonio Park, such as the Malcolm X Jazz festival, the Chicano Moratorium Day and Dia de la Raza. They explained how Eastside Arts Alliance promotes arts in the community, and its plans for a mosaic mural at the historic gazebo. Jamie Turbak, Oakland Public Libraries Director shared that the San Antonio neighborhood was identified for a library site in the 2006 Library Master Plan. She suggested an alternate location adjacent to the park on the corner of Roosevelt Middle School's property at 18th Avenue and East 19th Street.

### Comments from Newsprint

A wealth of exciting ideas for ways to enrich culture and arts programs in the Park were expressed. All groups enthusiastically supported the building of a neighborhood library. As usual, the Roosevelt Youth groups voiced a multitude of diverse ideas. Suggestions that received a lot of support from participants are noted in the text or with one or more asterisks, depending on the frequency with which it was mentioned.

- **YES to a Library!! In the meantime, how about a pop-up, mobile or mini library** including free book give aways? Many mentioned the need for security at a library. Some said that library should not come at expense of open space.
- **Lots of interest in Murals, especially from youth and folks who would like Latino Community Murals.**
- **Let people know that there is WiFi in the park**
- **Amphitheater for outdoor events or permanent stage with**

a sound system was mentioned in several groups. Activating a stage space for Roosevelt after-school programs (drama club, band, etc). The space could be used for plays and skits, dance classes, fashion shows, karaoke, and performances by "famous people" like Beyoncé. (Let's dream big!)

- **Terrace some of the hills for those with restricted mobility**
- **Festivals Suggestions:**
  - Dia de los Muertos\*\*\*
  - Cinco de Mayo
  - Mothers Day
  - Childrens Day
  - Earth Day in the garden\*
  - LGBTQ Festivals
  - Mid-Autumn moon festival\*
  - National Boba Festival
  - Halloween/Pumpkin patch with mazes/trick or treat
  - Multi-cultural tree lighting and decorations
  - Food festival
  - Lunar New Year\*
  - EID (Ramadan)
  - Food festivals
  - Dance festival
  - Sunrise Ceremony
  - International Festivals\*
  - California Indian Day
- **Special Events**
  - Movie nights/outdoor movies\*
  - KPop festival
  - Private Parties
  - No drinking Saturdays and Sundays
  - Comicon with cosplay
  - Outdoor student visual arts exhibit
  - A dog obstacle course and dog training
  - Roller Coaster
  - Traditional Music Festivals
  - Art Classes
  - Job Fairs
  - Origami Festivals
  - Ferris Wheel
  - Traditional Music Festivals

### Survey Form Data

When reviewing response forms from the Arts, Culture and Library Station, we noted how many times respondents mentioned either a positive response to, an inquiry about, or a desire for more information about these specific items. The list includes only those issues receiving five or more mentions. These data function as a snapshot of questions and ideas that came up, rather than the results of a formal survey.

### INTEREST IN:

Festivals/Cultural Activities	9
Misc: Art Classes, Making Art in the Park	7
More Murals	5

## SEPTEMBER: SUMMARY OF STATION DISCUSSIONS (continues)



### Station #5: SPORTS

#### Information was shared with participants:

**Diego Gonzalez**, local sports player and member of FOSAP, gave an overview of the current sports/playing fields now in the park (ie., the soccer field, basketball courts, and tennis courts), and how they are used by different community members. He also talked about Soccer without Borders which does extensive youth programming for boys and girls. He introduced **Desean Taylor** who described the Vertical Skillz boxing program that has been operating from one of the tennis court for over a year. It offers fitness programs for people of all ages as well as a free boxing and fitness program for neighborhood youth.

#### Comments from Newsprint

Participants had many ideas about the types of sports facilities and programming they would like to see in the park. Ideas that surfaced in more than one group or were discussed intensively in other group stations are listed below.

- A key theme emerged from Roosevelt Students voicing a strong desire for more sports programs and playing grounds. One comment that summarizes it: **“Why not use outdoor space at the Park to train/play different sports.”** The student groups wanted better communication and connection between their school and their park. **Why not use outdoor space at the Park for activities that have no “home” or venue at Roosevelt?** This would forge stronger bonds.

Youth listed just about every sport activity that can take place in a park including chess. They requested an official “sports day”, a track circling the tennis courts, a place to skate and rollerblade, and an area for flag football.

- Another theme was more space for elders and for the very young. There is a strong perception that the park does not welcome elders. Passive recreational activities like Tai-chi could be staged for seniors on the tennis courts.
- Folks mentioned that location of the various sports courts and playing fields are NOT clearly marked. We need Park maps and paths to and from different sports areas. Access for disabled is limited throughout the park.
- Easier to obtain permits and rent space for a wide variety of different event celebrations.
- Signage to state values and rules.
- Interest in water features (splash pads, etc.) echoed the same desire expressed at the August 28 meeting.
- Bleachers at soccer field.
- Concern about the difficulty of having sports netting that can be removed. Suggestions were offered about creating a fob for checking nets out and returning them.
- Places for kids ages 0-5 year old to play.
- More green space for other sports.
- A gym for young people.
- Basketball instruction and adjustable nets.
- Put playgrounds closer together and maintain regularly.
- Sport opportunities for both genders.
- Flat area next to soccer field put to better use.
- Fences to prevent balls from going onto nearby streets.
- Ideas that were also heard at other stations including more lighting, poor location of bathroom, idea of a cafe.

#### No Survey Form Data Included:

Interests for sports in the park were widely varied, and no single topic stood out as being mentioned especially frequently on the survey form data. Thus survey form data is not summarized for this station in the same way it was for other stations where clearer trends emerged.



## OCTOBER & NOVEMBER: REVIEWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

**39 SMALL GROUP PARTICIPANTS**

**BALLOT VOTING**

**ADDITIONAL 168 BALLOTS COLLECTED THROUGH SUBSEQUENT OUTREACH**

**REVIEW AND RATIFY PARK FINDINGS**

**B**ased on the feedback from the FOSAP Meetings held in August and September, we developed Recommendations for both the Master Plan and the ongoing management of San Antonio Park. FOSAP hosted its third meeting on October 30 with the following goals:

- To ratify the draft recommendations and gather any additional feedback.
- To provide a forum for residents to hear from City Administrator Ed Reiskin about how the Community Recommendations would be incorporated into the San Antonio Park Master Plan and ongoing management of the park.

### Meeting Attendance and Structure

Inclement weather delayed the meeting one week to October 30. Despite the rain, over 50 individuals and their families attended along with San Antonio park community members. City officials present included, City Administrator Ed Reiskin, District 2 Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas and her office staff, Mi Kyung Lew of Planning and Building, Sean Maher of Communications, Director of Library Services Jamie Turbak, Oakland Fire Department Chief Reginald Freeman, OFD Chief of Staff Michael Hunt, and our PRAC representative Jinhee Ha. Approximately 40 community members participated in small group discussions and submitted feedback forms.

After a welcome and community-building physical warm up, participants gathered in four small groups based on language (English, Spanish, Chinese) and age (Roosevelt students). There were supervised activities for children. Each group did the following activities:



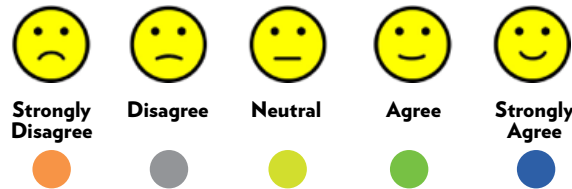
# OCTOBER & NOVEMBER: REVIEWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS (continues)

- 1. Review and discuss the four Community Recommendations developed by FOSAP based on the Community Engagement Meetings in August and September.** First 5 Alameda worked with FoSAP to develop a 10 page picture based infographic in 3 languages. This infographic explained and provided context for the 4 Recommendations and detailed the community engagement process that led to them. This handout was accompanied by four large presentation boards outlining each recommendation. Agreements, concerns, and ideas were recorded on a large newsprint pad.
- 2. Participants voted by ballot, which provided room for comments.** Participants reconvened for a discussion with City Administrator Ed Reiskin and D2 Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas about how the recommendations from the FOSAP-led Community Engagement Process would be incorporated into the San Antonio Master Plan. Translation was provided in Chinese and Spanish.

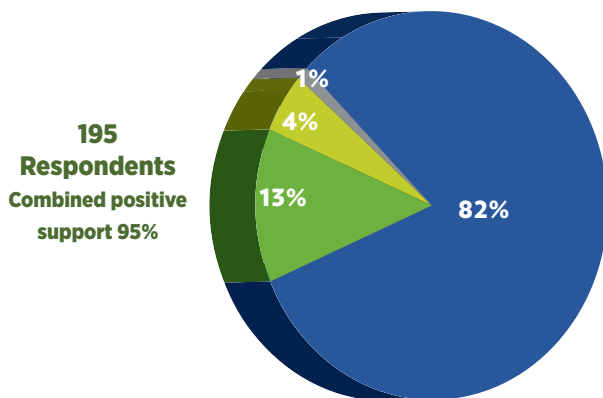
## Ongoing Outreach and Feedback.

FOSAP wanted to get broad community feedback on the Draft Community Recommendations before finalizing them and submitting them to the city. Thus FOSAP member organizations and individuals continued to conduct outreach both in person and online until November 23rd. In total, 128 Paper surveys were collected, many via Trybe events, which bring many residents to the park. An interactive online survey utilizing the infographic to share information about the recommendations in 3 languages was created and put on FOSAP's website. An additional 79 surveys were collected online. Thus, combined with the surveys of meeting participants, 207 non-duplicated surveys were collected in total.

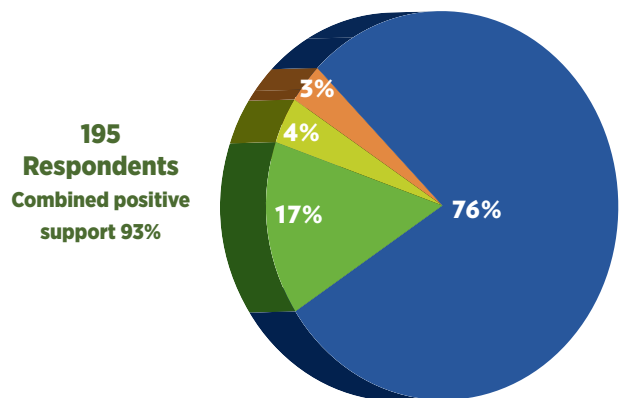
Feedback on the Recommendations was overwhelmingly supportive. Participants were asked to vote using the following Emojis:



**RECOMMENDATION 1:**  
Expand Programming in the Park



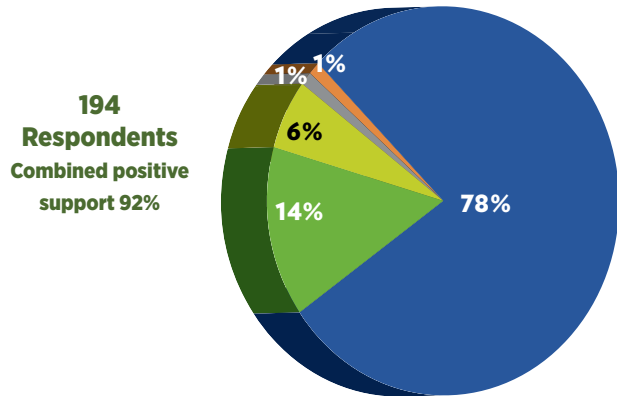
**RECOMMENDATION 2:**  
Community Center with Library and Rooftop Sports Deck



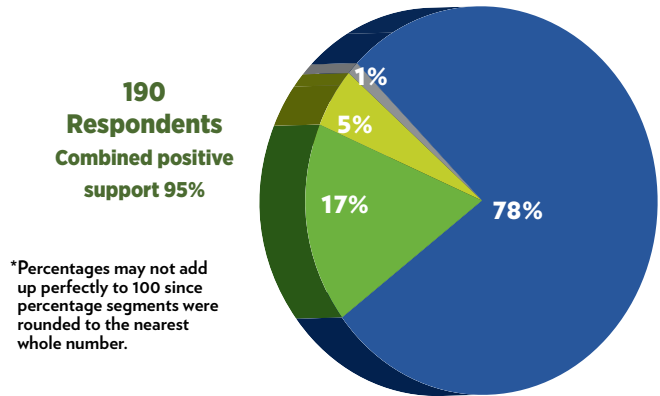
Some respondents did not submit any opinion for certain recommendations. Tallies displayed are taken only from those respondents who submitted an opinion.

# OCTOBER & NOVEMBER: REVIEWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS (continues)

## RECOMMENDATION 3: Repair Park Infrastructure

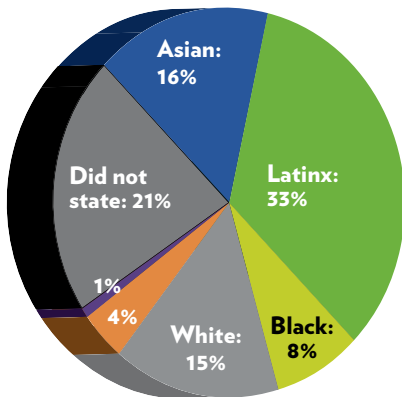


## Recommendation 4: Strengthen Park Stewardship\*



## Following charts based on 207 Respondents

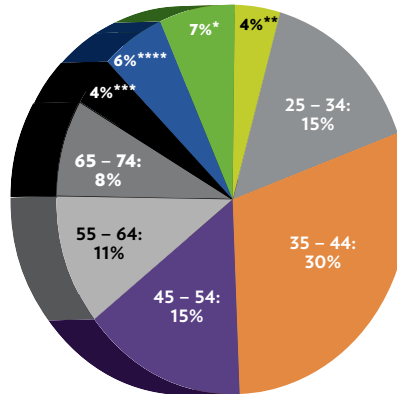
CHART 1: RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND\*



More than one ethnicity: 4%  
No. African/Middle East: 1%  
Native American: <1%

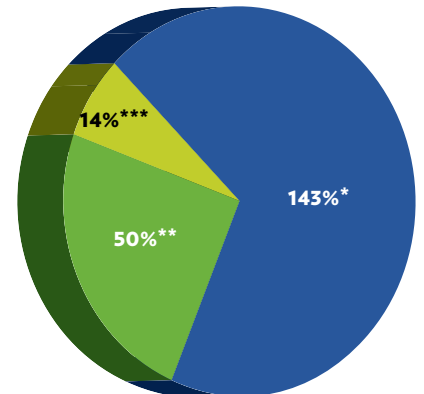
\*Percentages may not add up perfectly to 100 since percentage segments were rounded to the nearest whole number.

CHART 2: AGE



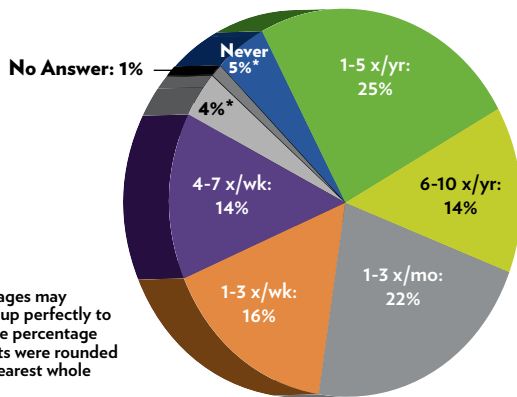
11 - 17\*: 7%  
18 - 24\*\*: 4%  
25 - 34: 15%  
35 - 44: 30%  
45 - 54: 15%  
55 - 64: 11%  
65 - 74: 8%  
75 - up: 4%

CHART 3: PROXIMITY TO PARK



143%\* Live or attend school within 1 mile of park or within zip code 94606  
50%\*\* Outside 94606 zip code and more than 1 mile from park  
14%\*\*\* Did not provide address information

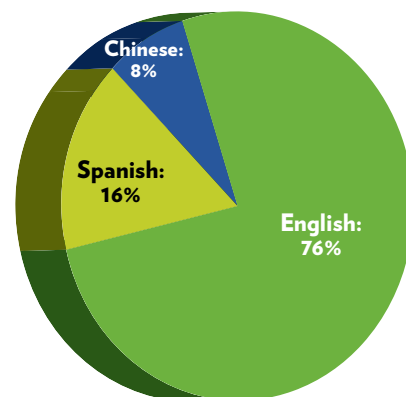
CHART 4: FREQUENCY OF PARK VISITS\*



\*Percentages may not add up perfectly to 100 since percentage segments were rounded to the nearest whole number.

Never: 5%  
1-5 times a year: 25%  
6-10 times a year: 14%  
1-3 times a month: 22%  
1-3 times a week: 16%  
4-7 times a week: 14%  
1+ times a day\*: 4%  
No answer: 1%

CHART 5: LANGUAGES IN WHICH SURVEYS WERE TAKEN



128 paper surveys 79 surveys collected online

Some respondents did not submit any opinion for certain recommendations. Tallies displayed are taken only from those respondents who submitted an opinion.

# FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## #1 EXPAND PROGRAMMING & SERVICES

## #2 ALL-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTER

## #3 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS

## #4 ROBUST PARK STEWARDSHIP

**SAFETY**

**CLEANLINESS**

**MAINTENANCE**

**ACTIVATION**

**CONNECTION**

During the community engagement meetings, the same themes emerged again and again. **Safety, Cleanliness, Maintenance, Activation, Connection.** Community Members want the park to be safe, welcoming for people of all ages, clean, well-maintained, vibrant with activities and events, and full of people using the park for its intended purposes. Community members value the park for its nature, its trees and views and open space, and its convenient location in a neighborhood with little green space. Community members value the activation that groups like Trybe have brought in the last year and a half, and the cultural events that groups like Eastside Arts Alliance have organized over the last 20 years. Community members want the playgrounds and sports facilities and bathrooms to be safe and well-maintained. Community members want the recreation center and built spaces in the park to offer resources and activities for folks of all ages. Roosevelt Middle School students want more connection with the park as a place for sports, after school activities, and performances. Community members want to be more engaged in caring for the park, planting trees, and gardening, and picking up trash. Community members value the opportunity to come together as a group, have conversations, and share ideas for the park.

Based on this feedback, FOSAP developed four draft community recommendations. These recommendations lay the groundwork for the shared vision that emerged during the FOSAP-led community engagement process. These recommendations underwent a “Review Process” by the community, detailed in the previous section. These recommendations received overwhelming community support. They were slightly modified based on feedback received during the Review Process and are presented here in final form.



## FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS (continues)

**GOAL:**  
to make the  
Park a safe and  
welcoming place  
with on-going  
events, activities,  
services and  
programs.

### Recommendation #1:

#### EXPAND PROGRAMMING IN THE PARK through non-profit partnerships.

We recommend the City of Oakland enter a formal multi-year agreement with FOSAP member organizations to expand the schedule of community-serving programs, activities, and events operating at San Antonio Park.

For over a decade, San Antonio Park's Recreation Center has had neither a Director nor dedicated OPRYD staffing. To fill the many gaps in services, several community organizations and neighborhood residents have stepped in with a wide range of programming. Trybe coordinates a massive food distribution operation from the Recreation Center. It also hosts regular Sunday family gatherings, biweekly special events, summer camps, art workshops, and the much-lauded Park Ambassador program. This "escort" program employs and trains local residents to act as "eyes on the park," and provides support to park users at all times of the day. Residents have voiced strong support for continuing **and** expanding this program. Soccer without Borders and Street Soccer provide organized games and practices for youth and adults. Vertical Skillz provides a popular free boxing after school program for neighborhood youth as well as programs for adults. Eastside Arts Alliance organizes the well attended, beloved Malcolm X Jazz festival every summer. The park is also the site of the yearly Chicano Moratorium.

**The community wants to expand these activities and programs.** The Park can readily host more diverse programming, including: family play groups; programs for the elderly; summer and after school programs focusing on arts, environmental education, and academic support; expanded community gardens; music and dance performances; multicultural family festivals, and much, much more. In response to FOSAP's advocacy, D2 CP Nikki Fortunato Bas secured funding in Oakland's FY 2021-2023 Budget for a full time Recreation Center Director and part time Recreation Leader. As San Antonio Park receives its first Recreation Center Director in over a decade, it will be critical that these established community partners who have served the public from the park are supported to continue and expand their programming through formal MoU's with the city. In order for the Recreation Center director to be successful in meeting the needs of the community, they will need to continue to support and expand opportunities for non-profits to offer programming from the park.

In addition to these non-profit led programs, countless informal community-initiated activities such as Tai Chi, regular games of volleyball, soccer, basketball and even cricket and takraw take place on a regular basis. Any capital improvements to the park and expansion of formal programming must also be accompanied by efforts to ensure that long-term neighborhood residents continue to enjoy the same access to park facilities as they have in the past.

### SAN ANTONIO PARK PARTNERS



## FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS (continues)

**GOAL:  
a staging  
ground  
for Park  
activation,  
renewal &  
celebration**

### **Recommendation #2:**

#### **COMMUNITY CENTER WITH LIBRARY & SPORTS DECK**

We recommend to the City of Oakland that a new, multi-purpose, multi-generational Community Center, inclusive of a new public library and a roof-top sports deck, be constructed on the footprint currently containing the tennis courts.

This facility will serve as San Antonio Park's anchor both to launch and house robust year-round programming. The Center will provide much-needed indoor and outdoor spaces for support services, education, recreation, food distribution, and celebrations for all ages. The community center roof would contain multi-use sports courts for volleyball, tennis, futsal, and skateboarding. The building would be set into the hillside such that the roof could be accessed from the park, without passing through the community center, during all hours of the day.

The Community Center is envisioned to include: a new public library, classroom & conference spaces, a commercial kitchen/cafe, a gymnasium, and activity venues for seniors. The immediate areas surrounding the facility would be landscaped with terraces, gardens, patios, and an outdoor stage to accommodate a wide range of active and passive outdoor recreational and cultural activities, and expand usable ADA accessible green space in the Park.

The current San Antonio Recreation Center footprint is only 1,200 square feet. When compared to five other community centers in the area, the average square footage totaled to 12,646, with Mosswood Park being 24,280 square feet. The Tennis Court in San Antonio Park area footprint is approximately 28,800 square feet. Trybe has been running their weekly Town Nights, a heavily-attended, city-funded violence prevention program, at the tennis courts. Trybe staff have noted that, even in the absence of a global pandemic, it would not be possible to hold this event indoors because the footprint of the current recreation center cannot accommodate programs of this size.

The current Recreation Center is too small to accommodate robust community programs and services. Unfortunately neither the Rec Center nor the Head Start Building is open to the public. Federal laws concerning child safety limit the Head Start building for use ONLY for children enrolled in the program, their parents, and Head Start staff. The facility is locked after hours, on weekends, and throughout the summer months. The large patio fenced area that Head Start shares with the Recreation Center is also severely restricted. Trybe must request access to the patio which makes the Rec Center unavailable to the public.

Expanding or significantly altering the existing Recreation Center footprint is problematic since it is nestled in a grove of protected, and dearly loved, mature Oak trees.

Given these constraints, FOSAP recommends building a new Community Center on the footprint of the existing four tennis courts at the corner of 18th Avenue and Foothill. The area provides adequate space for this much needed, long-requested community resource, while maintaining the current outdoor recreational space there as a roof-top sports deck. The 2006 Library Master Plan identified the San Antonio Neighborhood as one of two highest priority areas in the city for building a new library. By installing a library in the Community Center, services in literacy, education, cultural arts, and multi-generational programming could be staged from the building. This new complex would function as a true center for a wide range of vital services and educational opportunities to people of all ages.



## FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS (continues)

**GOAL:**  
**addressing**  
**decades of**  
**neglect and**  
**deferred**  
**maintenance due**  
**to budget cuts**  
**with parks in**  
**low-income**  
**neighborhoods**  
**disproportionately**  
**effected.**

**It is time**  
**to reverse this**  
**inequitable trend.**

### **Recommendation #3:** **REPAIR PARK INFRASTRUCTURE**

We recommend a range of immediate and medium-term repairs to the Park's built infrastructure.

San Antonio Park is a safe and more welcoming place for everyone when the Park's built infrastructure, such as pedestrian pathways, lighting, play structures, picnic tables, sport fields and courts, signage, and public art - is made safe, clean, and usable through regular repair and maintenance. In response to FOSAP's advocacy, D2 CP Nikki Fortunato Bas secured funding in Oakland's FY 2021-2023 Budget for some capital improvements in San Antonio Park. These included upgraded lights and repairs to bleachers at the basketball courts, movable bleachers at the soccer fields, repairs to path entrances and driveways, and repairs to the chain-link fence surrounding the tennis courts. While we see these improvements as an excellent first step, we recommend continued and expanded investment in park infrastructure, with the priorities outlined below.

#### **Immediate Priority: Tot Lot & Children's Play Area**

Throughout the community engagement process, participants requested renovation to the outdated, poorly maintained, and heavily littered children's play area. A frequently cited concern of parents noted that the picnic tables surrounding and within the children's play area are often occupied by groups of men drinking and smoking.

#### **We recommend the following Renovations to the Tot Lot and Children's Play Area.**

- Combine the Tot Lot and Children's Play Area into a common and expanded location.
- Upgrade all play structures in the new Tot Lot and Children's Play Area.
- Install fencing and gates to enclose the new Tot Lot for added security.
- Install signage around the play areas and the adjacent picnic tables, indicating that it is an area designated for children and their caregivers.
- Remove picnic tables located inside the Children's Play Area, while still ensuring there are tables next to the play areas for caregivers and families.
- Ensure there are adequate shaded picnic tables in other parts of the park so that park users who are not using the Tot Lot or Children's Play Area have places to sit, and so folks who are drinking and smoking can gather away from group activities.

#### **Within Two Years**

- Repair all pedestrian pathways to ensure ADA compliance. Ensure that all park facilities have ADA compliant entries and pathways leading to them.
- Create ADA-compliant picnic areas and more parking spaces for the disabled.
- Install portable bleachers and a practice field behind the soccer field.
- Renovate the historic gazebo and viewing platform on East 19th Street.
- Repair and expand lighting throughout the Park.
- Install multilingual and braille signage throughout the Park to direct, educate, and inform Park users and visitors.
- Install kiosks to provide information on current and upcoming activities and events.
- Install public art pieces throughout the Park.

## FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS (continues)

**GOAL:**  
**We recommend the City of Oakland and FOSAP member organizations enter into a formal multi-year agreement to establish and implement Park Stewardship standards, roles, and accountability.**

**FOSAP is eager ... that Recommendations 1, 4, and the renovation of the Children's Play Area are prioritized in the short term management goals for the park.**

### **Recommendation #4: STRENGTHEN PARK STEWARDSHIP**

We recommend the City of Oakland and FOSAP member organizations enter into a formal multi-year agreement to establish and implement Park Stewardship standards, roles, and accountability.

San Antonio Park is a safe and more welcoming place for everyone when residents are directly involved in maintaining the Park as a safe, clean, and green space.

City services have historically not been able to keep up with the cleaning, maintenance, and stewardship needs of San Antonio Park. While we urge the city to allocate more funding and staffing to these services, we also recommend that in the immediate term, the city enter into cooperative relationships with community groups who are eager to assist and fill in the gaps.

Friends of San Antonio Park is prepared to organize and engage an on-going stream of volunteer and in-kind support to:

- Conduct regular Park clean-ups
- Plant and care for trees
- Install and maintain flower and native plant gardens
- Expand the Community Garden
- Install public art displays.
- Identify and report broken and hazardous conditions via 311
- Monitor timely trash collection, irregular debris collection, and bathroom cleaning

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### **CLOSING THOUGHTS**

In closing, Friends of San Antonio Park is eager to work with the city to ensure that these recommendations are incorporated into the Master Plan, and that Recommendations 1, 4, and the renovation of the Children's Play Area are prioritized in the short term management goals for the park. The FOSAP-led community engagement process, with over 340 individuals participating, demonstrated the eagerness of San Antonio Residents to raise their voices, and work together towards a thriving park that can support a thriving neighborhood. FOSAP intends to continue its commitment to these residents by acting as an active partner and advocate in the Master Planning Process to ensure that the voices of the community are heard.



## FINAL NOTE ON RELOCATION OF FIRE STATION 4

**FOSAP ... has been committed to representing the voices of the San Antonio neighborhood, particularly long-term residents living and attending school close to the Park.**

**GOAL: We hope to work closely with the Fire Department and city leaders to ensure that FS4 finds a new home as soon as possible, and that this new home is not in San Antonio Park.**

### Relocation of Fire Station 4

Friends of San Antonio Park from the beginning has been committed to representing the voices of the San Antonio neighborhood, particularly long-term residents living and attending school close to the park. We intentionally avoided making our community engagement meetings a referendum on the fire station relocation. We felt it was more important to focus our energy on community visioning and articulating what we DO want for our park. FOSAP has held the concern from the beginning that the Master Planning process has not given sufficient space for community listening and visioning. All Master Plan options that were presented to the community at all stages of the city-led engagement process included a fire station. No other options were presented. We at FOSAP saw the Master Planning process as a critical opportunity for our community to dream big, and put down a blue print for a visionary park that represented the hopes and aspirations of the neighborhoods' long-term residents. With our limited resources, we focused on engaging our community to think in this way.

In our first community engagement meeting, we presented design Charrettes in small groups. To ensure we were presenting all options, two of the four design concepts presented included the relocation of the fire station into the park. One of these designs was created by the City's planning team and one was created by FOSAP's own contracted architect. However, when participants were given an opportunity to weigh in on the various design options, they sent a strong signal rejecting the fire station. In sticker dot voting, the fire station received 102 no votes and only 1 yes vote.

Community leaders from FOSAP member organizations feel that over the course of the three month community engagement process, they have gained more clarity on where their constituents stand, and that is in opposition to the relocation of Fire Station 4.

Therefore FOSAP takes the stand that we oppose the relocation of Fire Station 4 into San Antonio Park. We are in deep gratitude to Oakland's Fire Personnel for their service to our city. We are especially grateful for their active participation in our community meetings and their open communication. We plan to use our strength as a community organizing voice to advocate for the city to fund the purchase of a new site for Fire Station 4. Fundamentally, the push to place the fire station in the park is based not on the fact that no other sites are available, but on the fact that the city lacks funding to purchase a different site. It is not acceptable that our brave firefighters are housed in such an outdated and unsafe building as the current location of FS4. It is also not acceptable that for too long in this process, the only choice presented to them for relocation has been in public parkland in a neighborhood that does not have enough of it. We must all unite to expand the relocation options and prioritize the funding and purchase of a new site for FS4 outside of San Antonio Park.

There have been a few strong voices in support of the fire station from within our community. Some of them were particularly vocal in our last community engagement meeting. When considering closely these voices, we note that most supporters of the fire station relocation hope that it will bring an added level of surveillance and safety to the park. While it is the top priority to make the park more safe, it is not clear that the relocation of a fire station into the park will achieve this. Fire personnel have no mandate to enforce park rules, or to provide surveillance to the park. They are in fact under strict guidelines to remain in close proximity to their fire equipment so that they can respond immediately to emergencies throughout the district. The current location of Fire Station 4 experiences significant crime and vandalism, and the Fire Station's presence is not able to deter this.

# Celebrate a healthy future.



## ADDENDA

**Please note** that there are some slight discrepancies in the data analysis presented in our Meeting 2 and Meeting 3 Report Back Documents and Infographics when compared to the data analysis presented in the Final Report. That is due to duplicates in survey responses and slight errors in computing and tabulation that were not caught when the FOSAP team was preparing these documents during the more hurried pace of the Community Engagement Meetings. After the final outreach in October and November, when the FOSAP team had more time, the data analysis from each meeting and round of outreach was reviewed, the duplicates were removed, and all computing or tabulation errors were corrected. The Final Report contains the most accurate analysis of the data collected. The Raw Data and transcripts presented here contain no duplicates and have been checked for accuracy.

**We** are also including in this addenda some links to the work of the San Antonio Family Resource Center Parent Action Research team, a member organization of FOSAP. They focus on making the San Antonio neighborhood a school-ready neighborhood for children age 0-5, and San Antonio Park has emerged as a central focus of their advocacy. Their work predates the formation of FOSAP, but their findings affirm and underscore many of the findings of the FOSAP-led Community Engagement Process.

## IMPORTANT LINKS TO FOSAP DOCUMENTS

### **Meeting 1 Materials:**

- Postcard introducing FOSAP and logo.
- Event invitation flyer with survey printed and distributed in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese
- Commitment cards in 4 languages with surveys
- Printed Program in 4 languages
- Facilitator's guide in English with design options outlined in 4 languages
- Four design posters
- Raw data and transcripts

### **Meeting 2 Materials:**

- Flyer printed in 4 Languages
- Facilitator's Guide
- Participant Programs in 4 languages
- Template for station leaders
- Copies of report back poster
- Meeting 1 Report Back
- Raw Data and Transcripts

### **Meeting 3 Materials:**

- Flyer in English, Spanish, Chinese
- Facilitator's Agenda
- Infographic in English, Spanish, Chinese
- Survey
- Recommendation posters shown at October 30 meeting
- PDFs of Online survey tool in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- Raw Data and Transcripts

### **General**

San Antonio Family Resource Center Parent Action Research Team Video about San Antonio Park

First 5 Infographic: How Parks and Green Space Support School Readiness  
Early Education Infographic