



*Frog Circle at De Anza Park*

## APPENDIX D: Public Input Summary

## Findings and Conclusions

### *Random Household Survey*

Listed below is a summary of the results of the random household survey.

- Based on the survey results, **De Anza Park** receives the most use in the community with an average of 12 visits per capita annually. The Tennis & Swim Center and the Community Center are also well used.
- Park use varies, sometimes significantly, depending on geography. There was much higher use by west side residents of westside parks, even the Community Center, and much higher use by east side residents of eastside parks, even the Tennis & Swim Center.
- Overall, respondents rated Park and Recreation Services highly. When lower ratings were given, cost and availability of facilities at popular locations was frequently the reason.
- When asked what the three most needed facilities in Calabasas were, the three most frequently cited responses were **Sport Fields** (of all types), **Trails/Paths**, and **Opens Space**.
- There was high interest in trails, and an extremely high level of support for open space acquisition. This was illustrated through the responses to a number of questions, as well as the recreation participation questions.
- When asked what types of trails are most needed, **Unpaved Hiking and Walking Trails** and **Off-Street Paved Trails** received the most support.
- Respondents overwhelmingly (74.9%) felt more **Sports Fields for Soccer, Baseball, and Softball** are needed in Calabasas. When asked who should be responsible for providing fields, more than 75% of respondents indicated either the City or a partnership between the City and the School District.
- There is relatively high participation in programs. Community-wide, **41.3%** of the respondents indicated they **have participated in recreation programs** sponsored by the City of Calabasas within the past year.
- When asked to prioritize seven major projects, the three most favored were **Acquisition of Open Space**, **Develop More Trails**, and a **Sports Field Complex**.
- When asked what cultural arts programs are of greatest interest, **Performances or Concerts in the Parks** and

**Community Arts Festivals and Special Events** received the most support.

- A **Teen Center** and **Place to Gather or Hang Out** received the most responses when respondents were asked what types of youth programs or facilities are most needed.
- When asked about the **pricing of programs and services, 88.3% of respondents were satisfied**, selecting either that “the prices are about right” or “no opinion”. Only about 10% felt that prices are too high.
- The City’s **Recreation Brochure is very successful**. When asked how they find out about programs, 52.4% of respondents indicated the Recreation Brochure as the main source. This is much higher than in most communities.
- There is very high support for acquisition of open space. When asked how aggressively the City should acquire open space as it becomes available, **42.7%** chose the most aggressive level of **open space acquisition**.
- Participation in Calabasas is somewhat higher (about 8%) than the MIG Average.
- **Exercising/Aerobics** and **Hiking/Backpacking** have the highest recreation participation rates, and the participation rate for these activities in Calabasas was double the MIG Average.
- **Six of the Top Ten** Preferred Recreation Activities in Calabasas are **trail-related**.
- The activities with the highest latent demand (defined as activities people would like to participate in if facilities were more available) included:
  - Yoga
  - Horseback Riding
  - Golf (both Playing and Driving Range)
- In response to the open-ended question about how to use the 2-acre west side park site, there were two main themes to the answers: very active park use with sport fields and courts or very passive uses, such as trails and open space. Responses were fairly evenly split between the two.
- The majority of responses to the open-ended question about how to use the 10-acre east side park site focused on more

passive uses such as trails, open space, and environmental education.

***Recreation Needs of  
People with Disabilities***

- The City of Calabasas distributed 1200 questionnaires to the families of students with disabilities through the Las Virgenes Unified School District. These one-page questionnaires asked about the recreation needs of people with disabilities in Calabasas, with specific attention on the needs of youth.
- Responses indicated there would be interest in additional programming designed for people with disabilities, if the City were to offer it.

***Public Workshops***

- The first public workshop for the Master Plan was held on December 10, 2002 at the Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center. The purpose of this workshop was to obtain community input into the future vision for the Parks and Community Services Division, and to obtain input on the design of two future parks sites, one at the intersection of Las Virgenes and Lost Hills Roads (west), and the other at the intersection of Old Topanga Canyon Road and Mulholland Highway (east).
- The second public workshop was held March 10, 2003 at the De Anza Park community room. The workshop was conducted in open house format with four stations, including public comments to date; existing recreation facilities and potential specialized services; East Side park site development concepts; and West Side park site development concepts.
- The third public workshop was held November 10, 2003 at City Hall. The draft master plan was presented for public review and comment, and an open house format similar to the March workshop was used.

***Youth Workshops***

- On February 25, 2003, leadership classes from A.E. Wright Middle School and Calabasas High School participated in workshops designed to obtain input into youth recreation needs. The two Leadership classes provided insight into the teens' likes/dislikes, desires, and vision for the future of Calabasas Parks and Recreation.

# PART I. RANDOM HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

## D.1 Introduction

A survey of public attitudes, recreation interests and recreation participation characteristics was made in the City of Calabasas in late February of 2003. Questionnaires were distributed to randomly selected households in the city limits of Calabasas. Each member of the household age 10 and over was asked to fill out a separate questionnaire.

### Sample Design and Selection

A total of 1,156 surveys were hand-delivered to 594 randomly selected households in Calabasas. Each member of the household ages 10 and over was asked to fill out a separate questionnaire. After the random sample was selected, it was mapped and checked to ensure that each of the HOA's and apartment complexes in Calabasas was represented, as well as the few areas not included in associations.

Based on the random sample method used, in most communities, results are statistically accurate within an expected maximum error range of approximately 5 percent (a 95 percent confidence interval). In other words, if the sample were randomly selected 100 times, it would be expected that for 95 times, the results would vary no more than 5 percent from the results if everyone in the city were surveyed. However, the survey response rate in Calabasas was lower than average, despite a larger than average initial selection of households. **Based on the 271 returns, the maximum margin of error is 5.91 percent.** This is slightly less than the five-percent deviation the sample was designed for.

### Summary of Survey Results

A summary of the survey process is shown below.

**Table D-1**  
Survey Summary  
City of Calabasas

Survey Summary	Results
Number of Households Surveyed	594
Number of Households Responding	176
Return Ratio	29.6%
Number of Questionnaires Distributed	1,156
Number of Questionnaires Returned	271
Return Ratio	23.4%

The return rate in Calabasas was lower than is typical in most communities where this type of survey is conducted, which usually have a return rate that is 50% or higher.

It was noted by the Community Services Director there was a 27% turnout for the City election that took place right after the survey was conducted, and that this turnout was slightly higher than typical due to the high level of interest in a tax repeal measure on the ballot. Based on the election turnout, the survey return ratio may be a typical “good” response rate for Calabasas.

It is also important to note that an effort was made to ensure representation from all Homeowners Associations (HOAs), condominium complexes, and apartment complexes, as well as representation from the very minor areas of the City not part of a planned development. This included coordination with HOA presidents. However, City staff could not gain access to six gated HOAs despite these efforts, which means that residents of Calabasas Country Estates, Clairidge, Malibu Canyon Villas, Malibu Creek Condominiums, Mulwood Town Homes, and Tanterra could not be surveyed.

## D.2 Demographic Results

**AREA OF RESPONDENT:**

**Table D-2**  
Survey Areas  
City of Calabasas

Area	Percent of Sample
West	44.6%
East	55.3%
TOTAL	100.0%

It is interesting to note the west side of Calabasas had a higher survey return rate than the east side. The west side received 37.2% of the surveys distributed and the east side received 62.7%, but the west side accounts for 44.6% of returned surveys.

**1. AGE OF RESPONDENT:**

This question is used primarily as a means to cross-tab responses to other questions by age category or age group.

**Table D-3**  
Age Distribution  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=271)	Number Of Returns	Percent of Sample	2000 U.S. Census
10-14	30	11.1%	9.1%
15-17	9	<b>3.3%</b>	6.5%
18-24	12	4.4%	4.0%
25-34	23	8.5%	9.9%
35-44	56	20.7%	19.2%
45-54	60	<b>22.1%</b>	18.0%
55-64	50	<b>18.5%</b>	9.9%
65+	31	11.4%	8.6%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-3:**

- The highest percentage of responses was obtained from the 45-54 age group. The 35-44 age group obtained the second highest number of responses, and the 55-64 age group obtained the third highest number of responses.
- Compared to the 2000 U.S. Census age distribution, the sampling achieved a lower response rate in the teen age group (ages 15-17).
- Compared to the 2000 U.S. Census age distribution, the sampling achieved a higher response rate in the older adult age groups (45-54 and 55-64 age groups). Youth (10-14 age group) and the seniors' age group (age 65+) received a slightly higher response rate than Census age distribution.

**Table D-4**  
Age Distribution By Area  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=271)	Percent, West Side	Percent, East Side	2000 U.S. Census
10-14	13.2%	9.3%	9.1%
15-17	5.0%	2.0%	6.5%
18-24	2.5%	6.0%	4.0%
25-34	9.9%	7.3%	9.9%
35-44	28.1%	14.7%	19.2%
45-54	20.7%	23.3%	18.0%
55-64	15.7%	10.7%	9.9%
65+	5.0%	16.7%	8.6%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-4:**

There are some significant differences between the age distribution on the west side and the east side of Calabasas. This may be a reflection of differing population profiles on the two sides of town.

- Compared to the 2000 U.S. Census age distribution, on the west side the sampling achieved a much higher response rate in the adult and older adult age groups (35-44 and 55-64 age groups). The youth (10-14) and the 45-54 older adult age groups also responded on the west side at a higher rate than the Census age distribution.
- On the west side, seniors (65+ age group) responded at a lower rate than the Census age distribution.
- On the east side, teen-age youth (ages 15-17) responded at a much lower response rate than the U.S. Census age distribution.
- On the east side, the seniors (65+ age group) responded at double the 2000 U.S. Census age distribution. On the east side, the older adult age groups (45 -54 and 55-64) also responded at a slightly higher rate than the Census age distribution. The 18-24 age group also responded at a slightly higher rate on the east side.
- On the east side, the 25-34 and 35-44 adult age groups responded at a slightly lower rate than the U.S. Census age distribution.

### D.3 Opinion Results

**2. ON AVERAGE, HOW OFTEN DID YOU VISIT THE FOLLOWING PARKS AND FACILITIES WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?**

**Table D-5**  
Park/Facility Visitation  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Average # of Visits Annually	% of Respondents Who Didn't Visit
<b>Juan Bautista De Anza Park</b>	12	24%
<b>Calabasas Tennis &amp; Swim Center</b>	18	31%
<b>Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center</b>	12	37%
<b>Gates Canyon Park</b>	10	49%
<b>Grape Arbor Park</b>	8	49%
<b>Bark Park</b>	5	64%
<b>Creekside Park</b>	2	64%
<b>Freedom Park</b>	1	81%
<b>Highland Park</b>	1	81%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-5:**

- Based on the results, **Juan Bautista De Anza Park** receives the most use. 76% of respondents have visited this park, and the average number of visits annually for respondents is 12. Only 8% of west side respondents had not visited this park (which is located in western Calabasas), compared to 35% of east side respondents. West side respondents visited the park an average of 20 times a year, compared to an average of 7 visits for east side respondents.
  
- The **Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center (TSC)** and the **Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center** (Community Center) also received high use. For the TSC, 69% of respondents have visited the facility, and the average number of visits annually is 18. For west side respondents, 39% had not visited the TSC (located in eastern Calabasas), compared to 26% of east side respondents. East side respondents averaged 23 visits per year to the TSC, compared to an average of 8 visits per year for west side respondents. For the Community Center, 63% of respondents have visited the facility and the average number of visits annually is 12. However, 50% of east side respondents had not visited the Community Center (located in western Calabasas), compared to only 20% of west side respondents. West side respondents averaged 20 visits per year, compared to 5 visits per year for east side respondents.

- **Highlands Park** and **Freedom Park** received the least use. 81% of respondents haven't visited either of these parks within the past year, and the average number of visits annually for each is 1. Ninety-three percent of west side respondents have not visited Freedom Park, and 95% have not visited Highland Park. In comparison, 74% of east side residents have not visited Freedom, and 76% have not visited Highland. Both of these parks are in eastern Calabasas.
- There are geographic differences in the use of the other City parks, including Creekside Park, Gates Canyon Park, and Grape Arbor Park. For Creekside (in eastern Calabasas), 83% of west side respondents had not visited the park, compared to 55% of east side respondents. For Gates Canyon Park (in western Calabasas), only 21% of west side respondents have not visited the park, compared to 74% of east side residents. West side respondents average 16 visits to Gates Canyon per year, compared to an average of 4 visit per year for east side respondents. For Grape Arbor Park (also in western Calabasas), 42% of west side respondents had not visited the park, compared to 54% of east side respondents.

West side respondents average 11 visits per year to Grape Arbor, compared to an average of 5 visits per year for east side respondents. It is surprising how much use Grape Arbor Park receives, especially from east Calabasas residents. Most neighborhood parks are used mainly by surrounding residents. The high use of Grape Arbor may be a result of a lack of neighborhood parks in Calabasas.

**3. USING A GRADING SCALE OF 1-5 WITH 1 BEING POOR AND 5 BEING EXCELLENT, HOW DO YOU RATE THE CITY IN THE FOLLOWING PARK AND RECREATION SERVICES?**

This question asked respondents to rate the Community Services Department in several service areas, and specifically asked about service at two major facilities: the Tennis & Swim Center and the Community Center.

**Table D-6**  
Rating Specific Park and Recreation Services  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Percent Rating 4 or higher	Percent Rating 1 or 2
<b>Parks and Facilities</b>		
Adequate number of park sites	75.5%	9.0%
Adequate facilities in the parks	61.1%	8.9%
<b>Programs and Services</b>		
Customer service/friendliness of staff	78.4%	5%
Quality of and range of programs	68.7%	8.4%
Quality of special events	55.4%	17.4%
Quality of cultural arts programs	50.9%	20.8%
<b>Calabasas Tennis &amp; Swim Center</b>		
Customer service/friendliness of staff	78.7%	5.5%
Membership policies and costs	64.6%	13.0%
Availability of facilities	53.3%	20.8%
<b>Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center</b>		
Customer service/friendliness of staff	75.2%	4.3%
Availability of facilities	69.5%	18.3%
Membership policies and costs	65.7%	14.3%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-6:**

- Overall, respondents rated all of areas of service fairly high. For all areas, more than half of respondents rated the service a 4 or 5.
- **Cultural Arts, Special Events, Availability of the Tennis and Swim Center**, and availability of the **Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center** had higher than typical ratings of 1 and 2. Based on responses to other survey questions, this may reflect a desire among respondents that the City provide more cultural arts activities and special events. Ratings for the TSC and Community Center appear to reflect the popularity of these facilities, which means they are frequently crowded.
- There are some geographical differences. While 0% of respondents on the west side rated “adequate number of park sites” a #1 (poor), 7.2% of respondents on the east side did. Oddly, there was both higher satisfaction and higher dissatisfaction with cultural arts on the east side than the west side. On the east side, 9.9% of respondents gave a #1 (poor) rating – 9.9% -- and 18.7% gave a #5 (excellent) rating.

## Comments on Ratings

Those who rated any area a 1 or 2 were asked to comment. Comments were reviewed and grouped by service area.

**Table D-7**  
Comments on 1 and 2 Ratings for Park and Recreation Services  
City of Calabasas

Comments
<b><i>Parks and Facilities</i></b>
<b>Adequate number of park sites:</b> More teen activities closer to the Mulwood area (2); More parks needed in Eastern Calabasas, shade in parks is needed (2); Need park on East side of city (2); I live in Vista Pointe and there are no adequate park facilities to take my kids ages 4 and 8; There are no parks north of Paseo Primario; We need more parks in Calabasas that are larger, better facilities, and provide more shade for summer. We need a better Mulwood park; Creekside Park is used for a subsidized (by City) nursery school. It is usually locked; I don't believe there are any parks close to the Mulwood area; No parks around Gelson's and Mulwood
<b>Adequate facilities in the parks:</b> More parks needed in Eastern Calabasas; shade in parks is needed (2); Creekside Park is used for a subsidized (by City) nursery school. It is usually locked; Always seems extremely busy; The bathrooms are dirty; Need baseball fields
<b><i>Programs and Services</i></b>
<b>Customer service/friendliness of staff:</b> Not friendly (2); Not very friendly, never (2)
<b>Quality of and range of programs:</b> More programs for 3 and under (2); As a working parent, I would like to see more classes offered after 6 or on weekends (2).
<b>Quality of cultural arts programs:</b> Better music and arts and theater through city classes and programs (2); We enjoy the Calabasas orchestra. We would like to see more cultural arts, and a theatre or concert hall would be a great asset. (3); As a working parent, I would like to see more classes offered after 6 or on weekends.(2)
<b>Quality of special events:</b> Fun family parks (2); Improve!
<b><i>Calabasas Swim &amp; Tennis Center</i></b>
<b>Customer service/friendliness of staff:</b> Not very friendly, never (2); Staff seemed disinterested; Staff very rude to me at swim and tennis; Not very nice
<b>Membership policies and costs:</b> Takes too long to become a member (2); Long waiting list for membership (2); Impossible to get membership; Free use for residents of Calabasas (2); Day rate is too expensive (2); Many students on tight budgets in area. Student rates for college and grad students would be nice (2)
<b>Availability of facilities:</b> A lot of times it's too crowded and not many facilities are available (2); Always seems extremely busy (2); The Swim Center is always crowded; Cannot use TSC without paying membership fee; Free use for residents of Calabasas(2); No full membership available; Need more tennis lesson options (2); Pool not available for enough free swim hours (2)
<b><i>Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center</i></b>
<b>Customer service/friendliness of staff:</b> no comments provided
<b>Membership policies and costs::</b> Day rate is too expensive (2); High prices (2); Too expensive for low income seniors (2); Community Center too expensive for non-profit groups
<b>Availability of facilities:</b> Overfull gym (2);
<b><i>General Comments</i></b>
We have enough parks; I think the TSC should be open more often; I'm pleased with most facilities; Need programs for younger children at Community Center; We need more parks off Parkway Calabasas; We need a Bark Park for small dogs; Have not visited the facilities

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-7:**

- In terms of park facilities, comments focused on geographic location of parks, especially on the need for more east side parks.
- For the **TSC**, comments focused on the difficulty of obtaining a membership, the cost of day use fees, and the high use the facility receives.
- For the **Community Center**, comments focused on cost.

**4. WHAT SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY, ARE NEEDED IN THE CALABASAS PARKS YOU USE MOST FREQUENTLY?**

This was an open-ended question where respondents were asked to list their suggested improvements.

**Table D-8**  
 Needed Park Improvements in Calabasas  
 City of Calabasas

Number (N=Varies)	Response
<b>Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center</b>	Walk-in fee for workout room is too expensive; All girls basketball team would be good; Pool (2); Skateboard park
<b>Bark Park</b>	Stop people from allowing their dogs to defecate; It's wet in the a.m.; Frequently wet in the morning. Dogs get muddy. Watering should be done early evening not in morning; Better lights; Too muddy. Won't go there; Doggy water fountain needs adjustment to flow more easily (2); Won't use when muddy; Post dog owner etiquette. If your dog is unruly - it's time to go; Bigger dog run (2); Calabasas dog park; Restrooms; More shade
<b>Calabasas Tennis &amp; Swim Center</b>	<p><b>Facilities:</b> Locks on exercise rooms stick in the rain and don't work. Larger area for yoga and exercise classes; Better tennis lighting (2); More classroom space; Kids pool; Kids workout facilities; Jogging track; Year round snack bar; More trees; Heat pool more</p> <p><b>Programs:</b> Less summer camps for public use; More classes; Need more tennis lesson options</p> <p><b>Policies:</b> Can't walk in to use gym; Remove Viewpoint High School from using up courts (2)</p>
<b>Creekside Park</b>	<p><b>Access Issues:</b> Not available to the community; Greater accessibility; Not available to residents due to subsidized nursery school; Get rid of nursery school and open to the public; Access and hours of operation</p> <p><b>Other Comments:</b> Rest rooms; Bathroom plumbing; Maintenance; Picnic tables; Something for children to play on; Filtration system; 3 wall handball court; Bike path</p>

Table D-8  
(continued)

Number (N=Varies)	Response
Freedom Park	Restrooms(2); Needs shade; Better maintenance and ADA access; Improve maintenance; Clean up dog waste by providing signs, dog poop bags.
Gates Canyon Park	<p><b>Restrooms:</b> Keep eye on bathrooms; Clean bathrooms (2); Bathrooms are horrible; Restroom maintenance</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Gym; Tire swing; More basketball courts</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> Fix water fountain (5); Shading; Tennis lights; Lights on permanently for tennis courts; Mud puddles east of picnic table area (2); Water drainage problem sometimes with soggy grass; Pet waste bag stations are needed; Dogs off leashes constantly; People from local businesses smoking pot; Homeless people</p>
Grape Arbor Park	<p><b>Restrooms:</b> Clean up restrooms (3); Bathrooms (3); Cleaner bathrooms; Restrooms; Lighter restrooms</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Soccer field; Tennis courts</p> <p><b>Other Comments:</b> Level field / holes; Barbeques; Improve lighting; New sand and basketball nets; Redo; Enlarge it; Enlarge to hillside on north with walk bridge over flood control; Vending machines are always broken; Trash after parties (2); # of parties on weekends</p>
Highland Park	Stop motorized scooters; Plant bare area, its an eyesore; Stop using polluting leaf blowers
Juan Bautista De Anza Park	<p><b>Facilities:</b> Pool (5); Skate park (2); Better playground equipment; 3 wall handball court; Exercise course; Tennis courts; More parking (2)</p> <p><b>Trails:</b> Bike path (2); Improve trails; More walking and exercise trails; Landscaping / unpaved walkways eroded</p> <p><b>Shade:</b> Needs more shade (3); More trees (2); Tent over playground equipment</p> <p><b>General Improvements:</b> More adult attractions; More recycling bins needed; New and improved vending machines and change machine that will take \$5, \$10, \$20 bills; Acoustics in building are bad; Maintenance of courts; Raise swings; Drain swing area (rain creates pond); Equipment rentals; Drinks/water; Community hours for open courts as leagues dominate play. More play sets; Motocross; Annex area along Las Virgenes and build soccer field; More bleachers; Bathrooms dirty</p>
Other Comments	<p><b>General:</b> Offer volleyball; All parks need more shade; More baseball fields; Free/nominal charge for all facilities for Calabasas residents; No true 24 hour open basketball courts for the community; Preschool on west side; Great job</p> <p><b>Geographic Specific:</b> Need a local park near Vista Pointe; Need a Mulwood Park; Calabasas Hills - Needs toilet and water. Recreation room would be nice; Park Calabasas poop; Sorrento Calabasas Tennis and Swim; Park Sorrento Calabasas Lake – Keep sidewalk clean</p>

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-8:**

- The responses above fall into two main categories: 1) **Maintenance** issues and 2) **Lack of Facilities/Amenities**. There were also some comments about policies or enforcement, such as off-leash dogs.
- A number of comments focused on restrooms. Comments fall into two categories: that restrooms need more frequent maintenance or that a park without restrooms needs them. This is typical for most communities.

**5. IF YOU SELDOM OR DO NOT USE THE PARKS IN CALABASAS, WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS?**

Respondents were asked to select all reasons that apply from a pre-determined list.

**Table D-9**  
Reasons For Not Using Parks  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=187)	% of Responses
Don't know where they are located	26.0%
Not interested in parks	21.6%
Use parks in other areas	16.1%
Too far away, not conveniently located	14.7%
Use facilities in my homeowners association, condominium complex, or apartment complex	13.2%
Poorly maintained	5.1%
Feel unsafe	3.3%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-9:**

- The primary reason for not using parks was **Don't Know Where They are Located**. This can be addressed with a public outreach campaign.
- Only 3.3% of respondents chose **Feel Unsafe**, which is lower than typical. In most communities, 7% to 8% of respondents choose this option. This means Calabasas has been doing a good job with public safety and with designing parks so people feel comfortable in them.

- **Not Interested in Parks** was the reason given by 21.6% of people. Unfortunately, the City can't do much to reach these respondents.
- There were some geographical differences in the responses. 21.7% of respondents from west Calabasas use facilities within their HOA, condominium or apartment complex, compared to only 10.3% of those from east Calabasas. In addition, a higher percentage of those on the west side said they weren't interested in parks (27.5% on the east side versus 19.6% on the west). However, a higher percentage on the east side said they don't know where parks are located (27.9% on the east side versus 20.3% on the west side)

**6. WHEN YOU ARE PURSUING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CALABASAS AREA, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS SPENT IN PRIVATE FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS, SUCH AS A PRIVATE HEALTH CLUB OR A PARK OWNED BY YOUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION?**

This question was intended to gauge how much residents use private recreation facilities in Calabasas, compared to public facilities. Most Calabasas residents live within Homeowners Associations or complexes, many of which have their own recreation facilities. In addition, there are several private clubs in the area, such as the Calabasas Golf & Country Club. If private facilities are meeting a portion of recreation need, then public facilities aren't needed to serve those needs.

**Table D-10**  
Recreation Time Spent in Private vs. Public Facilities  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=216)	Average Percent of Time Spent	Percent of Respondents Who Visited Facilities
Public Facilities	50%	81%
Private Facilities	29%	57%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-10:**

- Based on the responses, people spend more of their recreation time at public facilities than at private ones, and more people have visited public facilities than private to pursue recreational activities.

**7. FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST OF PROJECTS, WHICH SHOULD HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN CALABASAS TODAY, IF IT COULD BE PROVIDED?**

Respondents were asked to prioritize the entire list of projects. Listed below is a table that shows the number of times a project was picked as the number one response.

**Table D-11**  
 Priorities for Future Projects  
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Number of 1 <sup>st</sup> Choices
Acquisition of open space	66
A sports field complex for soccer, softball, and baseball	42
Develop more trails	30
Another outdoor pool on the west side of town	29
A plaza or other large community gathering place	19
Build additional facilities in existing parks, e.g. swings, shelters	15
Acquisition of land for future parks	14

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-11:**

- Based on this method of analysis, **Acquisition of Open Space** was the number one response. This was followed by a **Sports Field Complex**. **Develop More Trails** was third, followed closely by **Another Outdoor Pool**. **Acquisition of Land for Future Parks** ranked last by this method of analysis.

A debate often occurs over the appropriate method of analysis for questions that prioritize. Another analysis method is to weigh the answers by giving more value to a #1 response and less value to the last response.

The following table shows the total score of each response after giving the responses a weighted value. Responses were ranked according to priority, with a first choice response assigned a score of "7," a second choice assigned a score of "6," and so on.

**Table D-12**  
 Priorities for Future Projects  
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Weighted Ranking
Acquisition of open space	970
Develop more trails	816
A sports field complex for soccer, softball, and baseball	768
Acquisition of land for future parks	710
Another outdoor pool on the west side of town	616
Build additional facilities in existing parks, e.g. swings, shelters	603
A plaza or other large community gathering place	538

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-12:**

- Based on this method of analysis, **Acquisition of Open Space** remained the number one response. However, **Develop More Trails** moved to the second position and a **Sports Field Complex** moved to the third position.
- Using this method, **Acquisition of Land for Future Parks** ranked higher (4<sup>th</sup>, instead of 7<sup>th</sup>) and a **Plaza or Other Large Community Gathering Place** ranked lower (7<sup>th</sup>, instead of 5<sup>th</sup>).
- Regardless of the method used, **Acquisition of Open Space** ranked #1, and was clearly favored over other choices.

**8. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PATHWAY OR TRAIL FUNCTIONS SHOULD HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT?**

Respondents were asked to select their top two choices.

**Table D-13**  
 Highest Priority Pathway or Trail Functions  
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=245)	Percent of Sample
Natural area trails that provide peace/solitude	34.4%
Trails that extend long distances (5+ miles)	19.8%
Trails that link schools and parks within neighborhoods	19.3%
Trails that link other existing trails	11.7%
Trails are not important to me	6.7%
Trails that primarily provide a transportation function	4.9%
Internal park pathways	3.1%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-13:**

- **Natural Area Trails** were clearly favored the most. **Trails that Extend Long Distances** and **Trails that Link Schools and Parks with Neighborhoods** received similar levels of support, and are the second most favored trail functions.
- **Internal Park Pathways** and **Trails that Primarily Provide a Transportation Function** were least favored, and these trail functions clearly had significantly less support than others.
- There were some geographical differences in responses. **Trails that Link other Trails** were favored more highly on the west side than the east. Although **Natural Area Trails** were clearly the top choice community-wide, this trail function received even more support on the east side (38.3% of responses) than on the west (29.9% of responses).

**9.HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN RECREATION PROGRAMS OR SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CALABASAS COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS?**

**Table D-14**  
Participation in City Programs or Services  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=259)	Percent of Sample
Yes	41.3%
No	58.7%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-14:**

- Almost 42% of people have participated in City recreation programs, which is a fairly good participation rate. In many communities, only about 25% have participated.
- There was higher participation in programs on the west side (47.0%) versus the east side (36.9%).

**10. IF YOU DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN CITY RECREATION PROGRAMS OR SERVICES, WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS?**

Respondents were asked to select all reasons that apply.

**Table D-15**  
Reasons For Not Participating in Programs  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=151)	Percent of Sample
I'm unaware or uninterested in the programs offered.	30.3%
I'm not interested in participating.	28.4%
I participate in private programs or I am a member of a private club.	16.4%
The times are not convenient.	15.9%
The locations are not convenient.	4.5%
Transportation problems	4.5%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-15:**

- **I'm Unaware of or Uninterested in the Programs** was the main reason people don't participate, followed closely by **I'm Not Interested in Participating**.
- **Transportation and Location Problems** are not significant reasons for lack of participation.
- There were some geographic differences in the responses. On the west side, 22.0% identified "The times are not convenient" as their reason for not participating, compared to 11.8% on the east side. On the east side, a higher percentage (20.2%) participate in private programs or are members of a private club, compared to 11.0% on the west side. This may be a result of the location of the private Calabasas Golf and Country Club in eastern Calabasas.

**11. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE PRICING FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CITY ?**

**Table D-16**  
Pricing of Recreation Programs and Services  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=240)	Percent of Sample
The prices are about right	50.8%
Don't have an opinion	37.5%
The prices are too high	10.8%
The prices are too low	0.8%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-16:**

- Based on the responses, the vast majority of residents (88.3%) don't have a problem with the pricing for recreation programs and services. Slightly more than half felt that **the Prices are About Right**, and another 37.5% didn't have an opinion.
- However, people clearly do not feel prices are too low, since less than 1% of respondents selected this option.
- There was no significant geographic differences in the responses. However, double the percentage of respondents in the 15-17, 18-24, and 25-34 age groups felt "the prices are too high", as compared to other age groups.

**12. ARE SPORT FIELDS FOR SOCCER, SOFTBALL, AND BASEBALL NEEDED IN CALABASAS?**

**Table D-17**  
Need for Sports Fields  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=215)	Percent of Sample
Yes	74.9%
No	25.1%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-17:**

- Based on the responses, the vast majority of residents (74.9%) think more sport fields are needed.
- There was a significant geographic difference in the responses. On the west side, 87.1% thought more fields are needed, compared with 64.6% on the east side.

**13. IF YOU ANSWERED “YES” TO THE ABOVE QUESTION, WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION?**

**Table D-18**  
Responsibility for Sports Field Development and Operation  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=138)	Percent of Sample
The City of Calabasas	52.9%
A partnership with the School District	22.5%
A partnership with other cities	9.4%
Los Angeles or Ventura County	9.4%
Private sports groups	3.6%
A commercial, for-profit organization	2.2%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-18:**

- More than 75% (75.4%) of respondents felt either the **City** or the **City in partnership with the Las Virgenes Unified School District** should develop and operate sport fields in Calabasas.
- Very few respondents felt private groups or for-profits organizations should be responsible for sport fields.

**14. WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST NEEDED RECREATION FACILITIES OR ACTIVITIES IN CALABASAS?**

This was an open-ended question where respondents were asked to list what they believe are the three most needed facilities in Calabasas.

**Table D-19**  
Most Needed Recreation Facilities  
City of Calabasas

Number (N=Varies)	Response
60	Sports fields (includes soccer (26), baseball/softball (19), sports fields (13), football(2))
53	Trails/paths (includes trails, bike paths, skate paths, mountain bike trails)
26	Open space areas (includes open space, nature center, wildlife preserve)
24	Swimming Opportunities
13	Basketball courts
9	Tennis courts
9	Senior activities /center
6	Community gathering place
6	Cultural center
5	Horseback riding
4	Golf Opportunities
4	Health/fitness club
4	In-line skate facilities

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-19:**

- 60 responses cited a need for more **Sport Fields** of some type, with soccer fields being specifically mentioned 26 times.
- 53 responses cited a need for **Trails or Paths** of some type, including trails, bike lanes or paths, skate paths, and mountain bike trails.
- **Open space Areas**, including nature centers and wildlife preserves, was mentioned 26 times. **Swimming Opportunities** was mentioned 24 times, almost as frequently.
- **Basketball Courts** were identified as a need 13 times.

**15. WHAT TYPES OF PATHWAYS OR TRAILS ARE MOST NEEDED IN CALABASAS?**

Respondents were asked to select their top two choices.

**Table D-20**  
Most Needed Types of Pathways or Trails  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=235)	Percent of Sample
Unpaved trails for walking and hiking	27.2%
Off-street paved trails for biking, walking, in-line skating, etc.	22.2%
Multiple use trails shared by bikers, walkers, and equestrian users	19.5%
On-street bike trails or bike lanes	14.7%
Designated off-street trails for mountain biking	6.7%
Unpaved trails for equestrian use	4.8%
Do not believe more trails are needed	4.8%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-20:**

- **Unpaved Trails for Walking and Hiking** were identified as the most needed trail type. **Off-Street Paved Trails** ranked second. **Multiple Use Trails** and **On-Street Bike Trails** also received good support.
- **Off-Street Trails for Mountain Biking** and **Unpaved Trails for Equestrian Use** did not receive much support.
- Respondents from the east side were more interested in equestrian trails than those from the west side. However, those from the west side were more interested in mountain biking trails. Unpaved walking and hiking trails were supported by a higher percentage of east side respondents (32.6% compared to 21.2%), and multiple use trails were favored by a higher percentage of west side respondents (26.9% compared to 13.1%).

**16. WHICH TYPES OF PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, OR ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE OFFERED TO THE TEENAGE YOUTH?**

Respondents were asked to select their top two choices.

**Table D-21**  
Programs for Teenage Youth  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=215)	Percent of Sample
Teen center and a place to gather or "hang out"	20.2%
Organized sports	19.7%
Outdoor adventure activities (hiking, surfing, etc.)	16.8%
Special interest classes (art, music, technology, etc.)	15.9%
Drop-in sports activities	7.2%
Job training / career placement	6.7%
Dances / social events	6.5%
Outdoor education programs	6.0%
City should not be involved in teen programs	1.0%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-21:**

- A **Teen Center** and **Organized Sports** received the highest levels of support. **Outdoor Adventure Activities** and **Special Interest Classes** received the next highest levels of support.
- The vast majority of people believe the City should be involved in teen programs. Only 1% said the City should not be involved.
- The 15-17 year old age group favored drop-in sports activities and dances and social events more than any other age groups. This age group had very little support for outdoor education programs and less support for a teen center than other age groups.
- The 10-14 year old age group favored a teen center, outdoor adventure activities, and organized sports.

**17. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, DID YOU LEAVE THE CITY OF CALABASAS TO VISIT OTHER PARKS OR PARTICIPATE IN A RECREATION PROGRAM? IF YES, PLEASE LIST THE NUMBER OF TIMES FOR EACH FACILITY OR ACTIVITY IN THE TABLE BELOW.**

This question was intended to gain information on how frequently residents have to leave Calabasas to use specific recreation programs or facilities.

**Table D-22**  
Participation in Facilities and Activities Outside of Calabasas  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=varies)	Average # of Times in Past 12 Months
Sports Fields	26
Open Space	25
Trails	21
Recreation Programs / Classes	19
Cultural Activities	9
Special Needs Programs	1
Did Not Leave	0

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-22:**

- Based on the responses, people left Calabasas to use **Sport Fields** and visit **Open Space** most frequently, closely followed by **Trails**.

**18. WHICH TYPES OF CULTURAL ARTS ACTIVITIES ARE MOST INTERESTING TO YOU?**

Respondents were asked to select up to two choices.

**Table D-23**  
Preferences for Cultural Arts Activities  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=238)	Percent of Sample
Community arts festivals and special events	28.5%
Performances or concerts in the park	28.5%
Performing arts classes (music, drama, dance)	11.3%
Cultural activities for children	9.9%
Visual arts classes / instruction (painting, etc..)	8.3%
Art in public places (murals, sculpture, etc.)	6.0%
Literary arts programs	4.1%
Cultural arts programs are not of interest to me	3.4%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-23:**

- **Community Arts Festival and Special Events and Performances or Concerts in the Park** received the most support.
- There was not much interest in **Literary Arts Programs or Art in Public Places**.
- Most respondents are interested in cultural arts programs. Only 3.4% indicated they weren't interested. When looking at the responses broken down by age, none of the respondents in the 18-24, 25-34, and 35-44 age groups chose this response. The 10-14 age group was least interested in cultural arts, followed by the 15-17 age group.

**19. HOW IMPORTANT ARE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY? PLEASE RANK THEM, WHERE #1 IS MOST IMPORTANT, #2 IS SECOND MOST IMPORTANT, #3 IS THIRD MOST IMPORTANT, ETC.**

Respondents were asked to prioritize the list of areas of responsibility. Listed below is a table showing the number of times each area was picked as the number one response.

**Table D-24**  
 Prioritization of Areas of Responsibility  
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Number of 1 <sup>st</sup> Choices
Preservation of open space	98
Maintenance of existing parks	96
Acquisition of more land for parks, facilities, and trails	22
Development of new parks / facilities	12

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-24:**

- Based on this method of analysis, **Preservation of Open Space** and **Maintenance of Existing Parks** received the most support, and each received about the same level of support.

A debate often occurs over the appropriate method of analysis for questions that prioritize. Another analysis method is to weigh the answers by giving more value to a #1 response and less value to the last response.

The following table shows the total score of each response after giving the responses a weighted value. Responses were ranked according to priority, with a first choice response assigned a score of "4," a second choice assigned a score of "3," and so on.

**Table D-25**  
 Prioritization of Areas of Responsibility  
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Weighted Ranking
Maintenance of existing parks	675
Preservation of open space	652
Acquisition of more land for parks, facilities, and trails	428
Development of new parks / facilities	287

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-25:**

- Based on this method of analysis, **Maintenance of Existing Parks** received the most support, followed closely by **Preservation of Open Space**.
- **Acquisition of More Land for Parks, Facilities, and Trails** received higher rankings from those on the east side. The lack of parks on the east side is likely the reason for this.
- Regardless of the method of analysis, **Development of New Parks/Facilities** received the least amount of support.

**20. RECREATION PARTICIPATION**

Question 20 on the survey addressed recreation participation and respondents’ top ten recreation activities. The responses to this question are discussed in Section D.4 and D.5.

**21. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU USED THE CITY OF CALABASAS WEBSITE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?**

This open-ended question was intended to gauge how frequently residents use the City’s website.

**Table D-26**  
Use of the City Website  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=239)	Average # of Visits	% Who Did Not Use At All
Web site visits within the past year	3	62%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-26:**

- The average number of visits was **3**. However, **62%** of respondents did not visit the City’s website at all within the past year. There may be opportunities to increase the public’s use of the website. The new on-line registration system Community Services put in place may serve to increase use of the overall City website.
- Of those who did visit the website within the past year, most visited 1 or 2 times (8% of respondents each).

**22. HOW DO YOU GENERALLY FIND OUT ABOUT RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CITY?**

**Table D-27**  
How People Find Out About Programs  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=231)	Percent of Sample
Quarterly Parks Brochure	52.4%
Through the schools	12.6%
From friends	11.3%
City of Calabasas cable access channel	6.1%
From special announcements	6.1%
Through the newspaper	6.1%
City of Calabasas website	5.6%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-27:**

- More than half of respondents (52.4%) find out about programs through the **Quarterly Parks Brochure**. This is very high compared to other communities, where typically about 25% to 30% find out about programs through the brochure. This means the Community Services Department is doing an excellent good job with its brochure.
- **Through the Schools** and **From Friends** also seem to be effective means of publicizing the programs.
- From the **City of Calabasas website** was the least common way to find out about programs. This is a method of publicizing programs that have significant potential for growth. With the on-line program registration, there will likely be an increase in the number of people who find out about programs through the website.

**23. THE CITY OF CALABASAS HAS TWO PARCELS OF LAND FOR PARK USE**

- A 2 ACRE PARCEL ON THE WEST SIDE OF TOWN
- A 10 ACRE PARCEL ON THE EAST SIDE

**HOW SHOULD THESE PARCELS BE USED? PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INPUT INTO THE DESIGN OF THESE TWO PARKS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.**

Question 23 on the survey asked for open-ended responses about how to use two park sites. The responses to this question are discussed in Sections D.6 and D.7.

**24. WHAT SHOULD THE NEW PARKS BE NAMED?**

Question 24 on the survey asked for open-ended responses about what to name the two new park sites. The responses to this question are discussed in Sections D.6 and D.7.

All respondents ages 18 and older were asked to respond to the following questions.

**25. IS THERE A NEED FOR BEFORE-SCHOOL AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS IN CALABASAS?**

This yes or no question was intended to gauge need for before-school and after-school programs.

**Table D-28**  
Need for Before and After School Programs  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=167)	Percent of Sample
Yes	74.9%
No	25.1%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-28:**

- A clear majority of respondents believe there is a need for before-school and after-school programs for children and teens. A somewhat higher percentage of west side respondents responded “yes” to this question (79.2% versus 71.6% of east side respondents).

**26. IF, THROUGH BUDGET CONSTRAINTS, THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD TO REDUCE ITS EXPENSES, HOW SHOULD THE LOSS OF FUNDING BE ADDRESSED?**

This question was intended to gain public input on how the department should address a budget shortfall, in the event of the passage of the Utility User Tax (U.U.T.) repeal measure on the ballot for the March 2003 election. Since the repeal of the U.U.T. failed, this question is less pressing for the present time but does offer insight into public opinion in the event that the Department faces budget shortages in the coming years.

**Table D-29**  
How to Address Budget Shortfalls  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=183)	Percent of Sample
Increase fees charged to users of parks and programs	33.8%
Eliminate some programs	27.1%
Create a special assessment to cover the loss	25.3%
Cut the budget in all services	9.8%
Close some facilities	4.0%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-29:**

- **The top response was to increase user fees.** However, it is important to note that less than 1% of respondents to question 11 felt the fees for programs were too low.
- **Create a special assessment and Eliminate some programs** received similar levels of support.
- There were geographic differences in the responses to this question. A higher percentage of east side respondents (37.1%) favored increasing user fees, compared to 28.3% of west side respondents. Higher percentages of west side respondents favored eliminating programs (31.5%) and creating a special assessment (28.3%) than east side respondents (Respectively, 24.2% and 23.5% of east side respondents favored these).

**27. HOW AGGRESSIVELY SHOULD THE CITY ACQUIRE OPEN SPACE WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE?**

On this question, respondents were asked to mark their preferred level of aggressiveness in acquiring open space on a continuum of 10 boxes, ranging from not aggressive to very aggressive. Table D-30 summarizes the percentage of respondents who selected each box.

**Table D-30**  
Finance Options for Park Funding  
City of Calabasas

N=192									
Not Aggressive				Very Aggressive					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.6%	1.0%	1.6%	2.6%	12.5%	5.2%	6.8%	16.7%	8.3%	42.7%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-30:**

- There clearly was significant support for very aggressive acquisition of open space, with 42.7% of respondents favoring the most aggressive level of open space protection. More than 2/3 of respondents (67.7%) selected 8, 9, or 10, the three most aggressive levels of open space acquisition.
- The third most favored response was level 5, the medium rating, which was favored by 12.5%.
- Only 2.6% of respondents favored “not aggressive” acquisition of open space, and only 7.8% favored combined levels of 1, 2, 3, and 4.

**28. HOW SHOULD FUTURE NATURAL OPEN SPACE BE USED?**

**Table D-31**  
Use of Natural Open Space  
City of Calabasas

Response (N=179)	Percent of Sample
Limited public use (trails, viewpoints, wildlife watching, etc.)	40.2%
Combination of the above	29.1%
Depends on the site	15.1%
Semi-active recreational use (picnicking, playgrounds, etc.)	8.4%
No public use (preserved for wildlife habitat)	7.3%

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-31:**

- The most favored use of open space was **Limited Public Use**, such as trails, viewpoints, wildlife watching, selected by 40.2% of respondents.

- The second most favored use was a **Combination of No Use, Limited Use, and Semi-Active Use**, selected by 29.1% of respondents.
- The least favored option was **No Public Use**, selected by 7.3% of respondents.
- There were some geographic differences. A higher percentage of east side respondents (12.6%) favored **Semi-Active Recreational Use**, compared to 2.6% of west side respondents. A much higher percentage of west side respondents (38.7%) favored **Combination of Uses**, compared to 21.4% of east side respondents.

### D.4 Current Recreation Participation

One element of measuring recreation demand is to identify current recreation participation patterns. To help track this type of information, MIG began tracking participation levels in communities throughout the western United States. An average level of participation for any one recreation activity is called the MIG AVERAGE. This information gives us an idea of whether the level of that activity in a particular community is above or below the norm. However, keep in mind that many factors influence participation levels. These include:

- Population profile
- Lack or condition of facilities
- Climate
- Current recreation trends
- Fad or trend activities
- Cost of using facilities and programs
- Present economic conditions
- Level of recreation programs and services offered

Participation rates are shown in the table below for the 50 recreation activities included on the survey. The per capita occasions for a 30-day period refer to the average amount of participation per person in 30 days, when the activity is in season. These activities are ranked so the most popular activities appear first. Activities shaded in gray have a higher participation rate than the MIG Average. Activities in bold have a participation rate higher than the MIG Average by more than 0.75.

**Table D-32**  
 Ranking of Participation in 50 Existing Recreation Activities  
 City of Calabasas

Rank	Activity	Per Capita Occasions per 30 Days	
		City of Calabasas	MIG AVERAGE
1.	Exercise/Aerobics	<b>7.59</b>	3.56
2.	Hiking/Backpacking	<b>5.05</b>	2.22
3.	Gardening	3.74	3.94
4.	Bicycling, Pleasure	3.41	2.91
5.	Reading for Pleasure	3.29	7.39
6.	Basketball	<b>3.12</b>	2.20
7.	Walking for Pleasure	3.06	5.26
8.	Jogging/Running	2.25	2.48
9.	Baseball	<b>2.23</b>	1.44
10.	Cultural Events, Attending	<b>2.13</b>	1.37
11.	Nature Walks	2.10	2.39
12.	Bicycling, Unpaved	2.09	2.39
13.	Playground – Visit/use	2.05	2.57
14.	Swimming (outdoors)	1.99	2.47
15.	Weightlifting	1.93	1.99

		Per Capita Occasions per 30 Days	
Rank	Activity	City of Calabasas	MIG AVERAGE
16.	Wildlife Watching	1.93	2.14
17.	Creative Writing	1.85	N/A <sup>1</sup>
18.	Tennis	1.82	1.12
19.	Arts & Crafts	1.74	1.81
20.	Musical Instrument, Playing	1.70	N/A
21.	Museums/Galleries, Visiting	1.66	1.59
22.	Soccer	1.62	1.68
23.	Picnicking	1.57	1.96
24.	Photography	1.52	1.57
25.	Drama, Attend	1.49	0.97
26.	Roller Skating/In-line Skating	1.44	1.24
27.	Yoga	1.41	N/A
28.	Horseback Riding	1.33	0.51
	Softball	1.33	1.35
30.	Golf, Play	1.31	1.42
	Painting/Sketching	1.31	1.13
32.	Football	1.29	1.49
33.	Volleyball	1.25	0.89
34.	Swimming, Indoor	1.24	2.13
35.	Skateboarding	1.19	0.86
36.	Needlecraft/Sewing	1.18	N/A
37.	Pottery/Ceramics	1.16	N/A
	Rock Climbing, Indoor	1.16	N/A
39.	Rock Climbing	1.14	0.68
40.	Judo/Karate	1.13	N/A
	Senior Activities	1.13	N/A
42.	Roller Blade Hockey	1.12	0.68
43.	Dancing, Social	1.09	1.00
44.	Scuba Diving	1.06	0.19
45.	Golf, Driving Range	1.02	1.27
46.	Bicycling, BMX	0.98	0.91
47.	Dancing (Ballet, Tap, Etc.)	0.95	0.60
48.	Handball/Racquetball	0.76	0.54
49.	Drama, Participate	0.57	0.65
50.	Archery	0.25	N/A

<sup>1</sup> N/A indicates an activity with no comparables or only 1 comparable.

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-32:**

- Participation in Calabasas is higher (8%) than the MIG Average. Twenty-one of the activities listed had a higher participation average than the MIG Average.

- **Exercise/Aerobics** and **Hiking/Backpacking**, the activities with the two highest participation rates, have participation rates more than double the MIG Average.
- **Baseball** has a higher participation rate in Calabasas than **Soccer**, which is different from most communities. Also, in Calabasas, **Baseball** has a higher participation rate than the MIG Average, while **Soccer** has a lower participation rate.
- In Calabasas, **Reading for Pleasure** and **Walking for Pleasure** have participation rates that are about half the MIG Average. **Indoor Swimming** also has a significantly lower participation rate, but this is likely due to the warm climate and lack of indoor facilities.

## D.5 Preferred Recreation Activities

Respondents were also asked to rank their top 10 preferred recreation activities, if facilities were available. The activity rankings were then scored with a weighted value, by giving a first choice a value of ten, a second choice a value of nine, etc. The total weighted score was then added up for each activity. The 20 highest-ranking activities are shown below in Table D-33. The weighted score is shown only for ranking purposes.

The last column lists the current participation ranking from Table D-33. While not directly comparable to the ranking of preferred activities, it does help to give an idea of activities showing strong differences between desired participation and current participation. This difference between what people are currently doing and what they would like to be doing is called *latent demand*. The activities with the highest latent demand are screened.

**Table D-33**  
Top 20 Preferred Recreation Activities For All Age Groups  
City of Calabasas

Ranking	Activity	Weighted Score	Participation Ranking
1.	Walking for pleasure	637	7.
2.	Hiking/Backpacking	520	2.
3.	Exercising/Aerobics	461	1.
4.	Nature Walks	461	11.
5.	Bicycling for Pleasure	349	3.
6.	Horseback Riding	342	28.
7.	Cultural Events (Attend)	336	10.
8.	Reading for Pleasure	310	5.
9.	Tennis	307	18.
10.	Jogging/Running	300	8.
11.	Swimming, Outdoor	272	14.
12.	Wildlife Watching	271	5.
13.	Yoga	270	27.
14.	Golf, Driving Range	265	45.
15.	Golf, Play	257	30.
16.	Baseball	249	9.
17.	Photography	244	24.
18.	Museums/Galleries (Visit)	238	21.
19.	Basketball	224	6.
20.	Weightlifting	222	15.



Screened activities are those with a latent demand (difference of 1 to 9)



Screened activities are those with a latent demand (difference of 10 or more)

#### OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-33:

- Six of the top 10 activities are **trail-related**: walking for pleasure, hiking/backpacking, nature walks, bicycling for pleasure, horseback riding, and jogging/running. There is latent demand for walking for pleasure and nature walks, so there may not be enough places in Calabasas for people to participate in these activities.
- There is a high latent demand for yoga, so there may be a market for additional yoga classes. There is also latent demand for photography, which is an activity that typically does not turn up on the top twenty list. There may be a market for photography classes.
- There is a high latent demand for golf, both playing and driving range. If it is possible to provide public facilities, either in the City or nearby, they could potentially be money-makers for the City.
- There is high latent demand for horseback riding. It is unusual to have horseback riding in the top 10 preferred activities. It is possible that people have horses, but don't have places to ride them; or that people don't have horses but would like to participate in equestrian activities. Based on the latent demand, there may be a need either for equestrian-related classes or programs, or for equestrian facilities such as trails or riding rings.
- There is also latent demand for tennis. There may be a need for more tennis facilities, or for more capacity for tennis lessons and programs, or a combination of the two.

## D.4 West Side Park Site

The City of Calabasas acquired two sites for future parks, including one on the west side of Calabasas. This site, 1.8 acres in size, is located at the intersection of Lost Hills Road and Las Virgenes Road and adjacent to the Las Virgenes Creek corridor. Concurrent with the Master Plan for the Calabasas park system, a site master plan is being prepared for this park site.

In addition to public input through workshops, the City sought to obtain ideas from the public about how to use this park site through the survey. Question 23 on the survey was an open-ended question where respondents were asked to describe how the west side parcel should be used. The table below summarizes all of the responses from the survey.

**Table D-34**  
Summary of Responses for West Side Park Site  
City of Calabasas

West Side Park Site Summary of Responses
A facility for the kids to skate (in-line skate)
A mall with ice-skating facility
A park and gym and trails and a swimming pool
A pre-school if no other site quickly found
Additional rec. room for events
Amphitheater for concerts, performances
As a recreational park (basketball courts, tennis courts, playground, garden type park with walkways)
Ball fields, major
Basketball courts (3), open basketball court that is open play all (the) time
Benches to view and enjoy the creek
Bicycle lanes
Bike - Paved bike trails (2)
Bowling alley
Center - 2 acres isn't big enough for more than a building, so make activity center
Center - Community center that is more accessible
Center – Nature center
Center – Nature center with wildlife and plant displays, trail maps, educational displays
Center - Would be nice we have no/nor do we offer any social places for our teens to hang, but the commons
City Park
Concerts (2): Concert area, Free concerts
Cultural center
Dog park – They should be used for dog parks, a tight place to hang out
Don't develop now
Equestrian - This should be an equestrian park
Gardens, paths, fountains, QUIET
Have fun
Hiking(3): Hiking, hiking/picnics, hiking/biking

West Side Park Site Summary of Responses (cont.)
Historical Center
Historical gardens in cooperation with state parks
Ice skating rink
Indian cultural center
Just as is
Large pool and community center
Leave it alone. Let low maintenance trails provide walking access. No bike. Give the flora & fauna a OL - chance for once.
Limited public use
More park facilities
More parking
Native plant site
Natural - Don't develop, leave natural
Nature programs for children
Open Land (7): A natural park with trees, grass, benches,; Keep natural - hiking, walking; Leave as it - develop existing areas (2); Left as much as possible; Please keep these stretches of open country as undeveloped as possible. They provide great relief from the manmade environment ever encroaching on the wilds.; Should be preserved as open land, maybe SOME hiking and equestrian trails
Open grass field with trees for picnics, soccer fields, etc. - clean restrooms
Open Space (15): Open space with trails for walking, jogging, etc.; If this land is in a natural state then leave it as open space. We don't NEED more development of any kind; Keep as open space / available for hiking; Leave as open space; Open space (7); Open space with walking trails; Open space, natural state; Open, undeveloped; Too close to intersection to be safe for kids
Outdoor educational programs
Paths for walking
Paved paths for bikes, roller blades, skateboards, etc.
Picnic (5) - we need picnic areas; Picnic area; Picnicking (3)
Plaza or other large community gathering place
Pool
Recreation center with community meeting rooms & larger classrooms for exercise & yoga classes
Roller skating facility
Senior activities
Senior center (2): Senior center, If you have a plan to have retired people here - there (should be) something social, & classes for them would be important
Should have pathways that lead into good, safe trails, & shopping center
Soccer fields (8)
Softball
Something for the children - ice hockey is my choice
Sports - Ice skating rink
Sports - make a skate park
Sports - more roller hockey courts to get away from using school facilities
Sport s- Second swimming pool, tennis courts, biking trail
Sports - Since there's a lot of space, a soccer or football field would be appropriate, a skating rink would be nice too
Tennis courts (4): we need public tennis courts at all new parks
Sports - ice skating, swimming
Sports - Indoor skate rink or pool
Sports - Bowling, billiards or miniature golf course

West Side Park Site Summary of Responses (cont.)
Sports - pool, soccer fields
Sports - soccer field, handball court
Sports - Outdoor pool facility or sports field
Sports - soccer fields and baseball diamonds
Sports - More basketball, tennis courts and bathrooms
Sports fields- Ball field
Sports fields - Baseball fields
Sports fields- Baseball/Softball with option to use as soccer
Sports fields- Soccer fields & football fields
Sport fields(6): Sports fields; Create sports fields; Sports field/park; Sports center; Sports park
Swim - Indoor pool definitely!
Swimming pool (6): Pool; public pool; swimming pool
Teen programs
Tire swing
Trails (15): Circuit trail; add trails; Expand the facilities for more hiking; Hiking Trails (4); it should be used for trails; Limited public use; More new trails & linkage to other trails (if possible); Paths for walking/solitude; Walk trails; Trails for hiking; Trails for walking; Trails linking areas; Trails, picnics;
Used for more parks and fields
Walking
Walking trails or community pool like tennis & swim center (no tennis) and social center
Walking trails, exercise classes
Wildlife preserve

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-34:**

- Two themes seem to emerge from the suggested uses for the west side park site: A very active park use, with sports fields, courts, or a pool; or a very passive park use, with trails and limited public use.
- Respondents to this question seemed to be fairly evenly split between proponents of very active and proponents of very passive use.
- The limited size of the site will preclude many of the suggested sports field uses. However, these suggestions point to a need for sports fields and courts in Calabasas.

**Park Names**

Respondents were also asked to suggest names for the west side park. Name suggestions are summarized in Table D-35. Overall, the name suggestions frequently were related to the uses a respondent suggested for the park site. All of the name suggestions were forwarded to the Calabasas Park & Recreation Commission for the March 10, 2003 meeting.

**Table D-35**  
Name Suggestions for West Side Park Site  
City of Calabasas

West Side Park Site Summary of Name Suggestions
<b>General Comments on Names</b>
Both should relate to community history
Propose names and then have a vote
Name in memory of people who have given back to the community – other than politicians
Name after famous Calabasian
Name after wildlife in the City
Name after local figures from the past – recent past.
Name something after a native animal or plant
<b>Specific West Side Park Site Names</b>
West Park
Westside Park (2)
Calabasas West
Calabasas Westside Park
Calabasas Westend Park
Calabasas Natural Park
Calabasas Entry Park
Calabasas Ranchero Park
Rancho Calabasas Community Park (2)
Old Oak Park
Las Virgenes Park (4)
Lost Virgenes Park
Lost Hills Park (2)
Virgenes Hills
Malibu Corridor Park
Malibu Canyon Park
Canyon Creek Park
Creekside Park
Oak Grove Park
De Anza Park – make part of De Anza
Juan Bautista De Anza Cove
Streamside De Anza
Las Virgenes Creek Open Space
New Open Space # 1
Calabasas Wildlife Preserve
Calabasas Cool
Calabasas Recreation Palace
Lost Hills Swim Center (2)
Lost Hills Leisure Center
The Westside Leisure Center
Lucky Horseshoe (2) – an equestrian park
Wrigley West
Lakers Park
Sports Park
Cherokee Park
Boring Park
Robert Park
Pumpkin Park
Trailbreaker Park
Doris La Violette Park
La Follett Park
Ralph Nader Preserve
Vasco de Balboa Park

## 4.7 East Side Park Site

The second park site acquired for park use is a 10-acre site at the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Old Topanga Canyon Road. This site is part of a larger open space tract and is located across Mulholland Highway from a future environmental education site being planned by the Mountains Restoration Trust.

In addition to public input through workshops, the City sought to obtain ideas from the public about how to use this park site through the survey. Question 23 on the survey was an open-ended question where respondents were asked to describe how the east side parcel should be used. The table below summarizes all of the responses from the survey.

**Table D-36**  
Summary of Responses for East Side Park Site  
City of Calabasas

East Side Park Site Summary of Responses
A mall with ice-skating facility
As part of the scenic corridor, it should remain preserved with trails & picnic benches only
Bark Park 2
Bathrooms & water fountains
Bench and picnic opportunities
Bike paths/trails (4): Bicycle lanes; Develop bike path; bike paths, bike trails
Bird watching opportunity on site
Buildings for classes for teens
Center – Community center, indoor gym, fitness center
Center - Recreation center
City Park
Don't develop now
Equestrian (2): Horse stables for public riding; Place for equestrian use as well as horseback riding lessons.
Gardens, wildlife, horse trails, dog training paths & grass, large pool, small shopping center, and a closed place to bring pets - No cars!
Golf (2): Golf, Par 3 golf course
Grassy areas
Have fun
Have parking spaces on safe side
Hiking (8): Hiking (3); Hiking trails (3); Hiking-preservation of natural habitat; Hiking, outdoor education programs
If you have a plan to have retired people here - there (should be) something social, & classes for them would be important.
Install picnic tables & fountains
Interpretive nature display
Leave in natural state, protect wildlife and forests
Left in natural state, except for paved trails (or boardwalk) for walking & biking; tables for picnicking
Limited public use (7): Limited public use – trails, picnicking areas
Natural - don't develop. Leave natural
Nature center
Nature center / low developed trail for nature hikes

East Side Park Site Summary of Responses (cont.)
Nature hikes and activities
Nature preserve
No car parking
NO fields for sports
No organized recreation
Open Land (9): Open land, Also natural park for picnics, hiking, families; As a nature park leaving everything as it is because there are a lot of wildlife homes there; Do not destroy! Safe for open land and wildlife; Give more importance to NOT let swings, kid's noise, bikes, etc. disrupt the little remaining peace available to local wildlife - LEAVE IT ALONE - you'll do everyone a favor; Keep it open; Keep natural for hiking and walking. Let low maintenance trails provide walking access. No bike. Give the flora & fauna a chance for once; Open field of grass; This should be kept as open land for the wildlife living there.
Open grass field with trees for picnics, soccer fields, etc. - clean restrooms
Open Space (32): Open space with trails for walking, jogging, etc.; leave it as open space. We don't NEED more development of any kind; Keep as much as possible open so people can re-charge their batteries. Please do not allow bike trails. Please do something about the motor-bike riding on local hills; Keep as open space / available for hiking; Open grass space with lots of trees for picnicking or playgrounds; Open space / wild foods learning center; Open space limited use; Open space with walking trails; Open space, trails; Open space, with a few trails; Please leave it open. It's so restful just to see that pretty meadow (Deer come here); Preserve the open space; Restore & keep as open space; This wildlife sanctuary for bobcats, coyotes, mtn. lions, deer and other disappearing species must be preserved as natural, undisturbed open space.
Outdoor educational programs
Outdoor pool and putting greens
Park with trails
Parking (off road)
Paths (2): For walking; For walking/solitude
Picnic area (6): Picnic area, Picnic area with photography spots, Picnicking; Picnics
Playground (4): Preserve the old trees, the shade adds to the park's charm during summer, huge playground for children 1 thru 10; Park/Playground; Playground for small children; Playgrounds for young children
Plaza or other large community gathering place
Recognize that this area is home to bobcat, coyote, mtn. lion - that special nature should be preserved
Recreation, education
Roller skating facility
Shade (2)
Something for children - Hiking, trails, nature education
Sport - Baseball
Sport - Basketball court
Sport - One multi-purpose field
Sport - Softball fields
Sports
Sports - Ball fields
Sports - baseball diamonds & soccer fields
Sports - Expand park facility for more sports
Sports - soccer, baseball fields
Sports fields (4): Sports complex for soccer, softball and baseball, park
Stage and cultural events
Street widening (2)
Swimming pool (3): Swimming pool.; More bathrooms swimming pool

**Park Names**

activities in eastern Calabasas.

East Side Park Site Summary of Responses (cont.)	
To look at and have a park there	Respondents were also asked to suggest names for the east side park. Name suggestions are summarized in Table D-37. Overall, the name suggestions frequently were related to the uses a respondent suggested for the park site. All of the name suggestions were forwarded to the Calabasas Park & Recreation Commission for the May 19, 2003 meeting.
Tot swings and slides, etc.	
Trails (32): A walking trail along perimeters; Create walking trails for daily exercises; Walking trails (2); Trails for walking and nature walks and wildlife viewing; Trails for bikes, paved, to view and enjoy nature. Un or paved bike trail, hiking trail - walking on paved trail for bicycling walking, in-line skating; Nature trails with limited public use - no playgrounds or other structures; Nature trails of all sorts; Natural trails (4); Hiking/Walking trails; Hiking trails (2); Hiking & nature trails; Are trails feasible? If so, develop trails; visitor center?; Add trails (2); Trails (3); Walk paths; No human facilities except trails; Nature trails; More new trails & linkage to other trails;	
Trails visitor center on our hills and the importance of nature	
Trails with information signs along the trail	
Trails, dog day care center	
Used for fairs and fields	
Walking	
Walking sign for students of nearby schools & be respectful of the environment	
Walking trails play facilities for children, restroom	
Wildlife - Pond for wildlife	
Wildlife - Preserve for wildlife based park	
Wildlife habitat	
Wildlife preserve	
Wildlife preserve, make	
Wildlife viewing and education	

**OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-36:**

- The majority of respondents favored more passive use of the east side park site, mainly focusing on trails, nature centers, and similar passive activities.
- Some respondents did identify more active uses for this site, including sports fields and golf. However, there were fewer proponents of sport fields for the east side site. Golf was suggested by two respondents.
- Playgrounds and picnic areas were suggested by several respondents. This may be because there are few opportunities for these

Ishmael Park
Park of Parks
Bluebird Park
Sweet Freedom
Freedom Park
Liberty Park

**Table D-37**  
Name Suggestions for East Side  
Park Site  
City of Calabasas

East Side Park Site Summary of Name Suggestions
<b>General Comments on Names</b>
Both should relate to community history
Propose names and then have a vote
Name in memory of people who have given back to the community – other than politicians
Name after famous Calabasian
Name after wildlife in the City
Name after local figures from the past – recent past.
Name something after a native animal or plant
<b>Specific East Side Park Site Names</b>
Mulholland Center
Mulholland Park (3)
William Mulholland Park (2)
Spirit of Mulholland Park
Wild Walnut Park (3)
Walnut Park (5)
Old Topanga Park
Old Topanga Open Space
Topanga Park
Old Topanga Trails
Canyon Point Park
Canyon Highway Park
East Park
Eastside Park (2)
Calabasas Park
Calabasas Eastside Park (2)
Calabasas Meadows
Calabasas Pumpkin Trail or Calabasas Squash Trail
Calabasas Pitch & Putt (2)
Old West Park (2)
Scenic Gateway Park
Open Skies Park
Bark Park 2
New Horizons
Headwaters
Peregrine Park
Falcon Forest
Deer Park
Wildlife Park
Wildlife Homes
The Native Oak
Old Oak
Live Oak Park
Vista Oak
Forest View
Nature’s Gate
Green Acres
California Gold Park
Calabasas Conservation Center
Calabasas Wildlife Preserve
Calabasas Nature Preserve Park
Calabasas Outdoor Wildlife Center – “Wildlife Center” for short
New Open Space #2

East Side Park Site Summary of Name Suggestions (cont.)
John W. Lennon Memorial Park
Ronald Reagan Regional Park
Bluebird Park
Artist's Grove Park (2) – for Park Moderne
Gensley Park (3) – for John and Julianna
Edward Abbey Preserve
Junipero Serra Park
Oak Tree Park <sup>1</sup>
Wild Walnut Park at Headwaters Corner <sup>1</sup>
Gateway to the Scenic Corridor Park <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Suggested at the December 8, 9, & 10, 2002 park workshops

## PART II. RECREATION NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

### D.8 Questionnaire Results

In 2002, the City of Calabasas Community Services Department began offering the ALL STARZ basketball program, a league open to developmentally challenged youth and young adults between the ages of 8 and 21. Since the program has been very popular, the department began to consider whether additional programming of this type is needed.

The City decided to seek input on recreation programs and facilities for people with disabilities. Working with the Las Virgenes Unified School District, the City distributed 1200 questionnaires to the families of youth with disabilities.

Seven responses have been received to date. Additional responses will be incorporated into this report as they are received.

Each question from the questionnaire is included in bold type in the report, and responses to that question are summarized below it.

**HAS A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY PARTICIPATED IN ANY PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES? IF SO, WHAT IS THE PROGRAM AND WHO IS OFFERING IT?**

Four don't participate in programs

Programs identified:

- SERT – horseback riding
- Swimming lessons at Conejo Park & Rec
- AYSO VIP soccer
- Pony League baseball
- Encino Community Center sports clinic for kids with special needs
- Ballet/Tap class in Las Vegas

**IF THE CITY OF CALABASAS WERE TO OFFER ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, WOULD YOUR FAMILY BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?**

Six of the seven respondents indicated interest in additional programs designed for people with disabilities. One respondent noted they are not interested in programs only for children with disabilities, but rather in programs that integrate children with disabilities. The one respondent who responded no to this question did not provide any additional comments.

**WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS ARE NEEDED?**

Respondents listed the following programs. Numbers in parentheses after the responses indicate the number of mentions, if more than one respondent listed the program type

- Hikes
- Outdoor education, especially for teens
- Sports (4)
- Camps (4)
- Swimming (4)
- Activities (2)
- Classes (3)
- Special events
- Dance classes(2)
- Picnics
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Functions at a restaurant, movie theatre or park
- Theatre for kids

**WHICH AGE GROUPS NEED PROGRAMS?**

The following responses were given:

- 15 to 16 year olds
- All age groups, but especially teens
- 5 to 12 or older
- 3 to 11
- 9 year olds
- 3 to 21. It is difficult to find or have friends when you have a disability.
- All ages

**IS ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR PARTICIPATION IN PARK AND RECREATION PROGRAMS? IF SO, WHAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED?**

The following types of assistance were listed:

- Parent / child events would work for hikes, with a park ranger to lead the hike
- Someone to guide / aide / supervise those who need help
- One to one aides for some children, a high degree of supervision and structure for others

One respondent commented “Not sure. Not familiar enough with all programs available.”

**ARE ANY MODIFICATIONS NEEDED AT EXISTING CALABASAS PARKS THAT WOULD MAKE THEM MORE ACCESSIBLE TO YOU? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE.**

Only four responses were given.

- No, not for me
- No
- None that I can think of
- Make playgrounds accessible to wheelchairs

**ARE ANY ADDITIONAL PARK FACILITIES NEEDED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, EITHER WITHIN EXISTING PARKS OR AT A NEW PARK? PLEASE DESCRIBE.**

Only four responses were given.

- Accessible playground for wheelchairs, like Shane’s Inspiration playgrounds
- More paved paths at parks (i.e. at De Anza)
- Can’t think of anything at this time
- No

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

- My son is ADD and has a hard time mixing
- My daughter is 17 and really needs some local programs
- There used to be hikes in Northern California with campouts and it was a wonderful thing for High School kids – better than TV

demand for programs designed for youth with disabilities. Sports, camps, and swimming were each mentioned by four of the seven respondents.

- There may be a need for outreach to youth with disabilities about existing recreation programs for youth, with specific attention given to accommodating and modifying programs to meet the needs of those who would prefer to be mainstreamed into existing programs. Outreach about how to accommodate or modify programs may also be needed as part of this effort.
- Based on some of the comments, there may be a need for social activities, such as hikes or outings.
- Accessible paths and playground accessibility were noted as an issue, specifically with regard to wheelchairs. When the City upgrades playgrounds or installs new ones, accessibility should be a major consideration. This could mean going beyond minimum legal requirements in some cases. It may be advisable to seek input from playground users in wheelchairs, or their families.

**OBSERVATIONS OF RESPONSES:**

- Depending on the programs offered, there is probably

## PART III. PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

### D.9 Public Workshops

During the master planning effort, three public workshops were held to obtain community input on the future of park and recreation services in Calabasas. In addition, youth workshops were held with Leadership classes at Calabasas High School and A.E. Wright Middle School to obtain youth perspectives on park and recreation needs.

#### December 2002 Workshop

##### Welcome and Introduction

- *Jeff Rubin, Calabasas Community Services Director:* Thanked everyone who attended and gave a brief overview of the Parks Master Plan Project.

##### Parks Master Planning Project Review

- *Lauren Schmitt, Dave Walters, consultant team, MIG:* Consultant team gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the planning project, the process and then reviewed opportunities for future public involvement. They also reported on the two parks site tours conducted on Sunday, Dec. 8.

##### Parks Master Plan Visioning Session

- *Sam Gennawey, MIG:* Mr. Gennawey facilitated a discussion on visioning for the city's Community Services Division parks and recreation programs and services. Esmeralda Garcia with MIG graphically-recorded the session. The discussion focused on four main points: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Comments per category are:

##### Strengths:

- Efforts should be related back to the Calabasas logo (hawk)
- Community Services Department staff
- Existing diversity
- Serves a diverse community
- Adequate community parks
- Safe
- Facilities are heavily used
- Library
- Pre-school and after-school facilities
- Good after-school programs
- Camps
- Partnerships, such as with the City of Agoura Hills for community center construction
- Tennis and swim center is run as an enterprise fund
- All-Starz basketball program
- Programmatic activity
- Roller hockey

- Pocket parks: minimal usage due to lack of equipment and field space
- Acoustics (in meeting room)
- Bark Park is too small
- Hockey court light pollution at de Anza
- Creekside after-school program limited due to state licensing regulations
- Waiting list for tennis club
- Lack of soccer and softball fields
- Poor park design at Creekside
- Not enough bike and swing areas
- Community Center fees are too expensive for some residents
- Creekside daycare is not self-sustaining
- No open space
- Parking (?)
- Lack of programs for disabled
- Parks with environmental educational program (s)
- Creekside should be restored to better serve the community
- Under-use of Creekside on weekends
- More trail systems should be identified
- Not enough teen programs

### **Opportunities:**

- Sound facts to clear misinformation
- Partner with schools
- Partner with Santa Monica trails
- Condense parking lot at Creekside for greater field usage
- Establishment of an open space acquisition program
- Partnerships with local businesses
- Mulholland to Santa Monica Mountains Nature Center
- More meeting spaces
- Sitting areas with flowers
- Nurture and protect existing open space
- More natural landscaping with less development/maintain natural Calabasas environment
- Partnerships (such as Mountain Restoration Trust) strengthen SMMC
- Greater program and facility diversity
- Use Malibu Creek Model
- Pre-kindergarten program
- More after-school programming
- Use more public transportation to get to facilities/access transport

### **Threats:**

- Urban encroachment
- State, Federal budget crisis
- Repeal of Utility Users Tax
- Fire
- Traffic light at east side
- Traffic and children
- Teen loitering

### **Weaknesses:**

- Traffic congestion at eastside/westside
- Steel guardrail
- Building something we can't maintain
- Forego opportunities to keep open space from maintenance costs

### **Break out discussion on potential park sites at Las Virgenes/Lost Hills and Old Topanga/Mulholland.**

The group divided into two sub-groups to discuss potential parks and recreation amenities and features at the two sites. Each group received information on the variety of parks that include: Linear, large urban, special use, community, neighborhood, mini (pocket) parks and open space. Each group chose a delegate to report back to the overall group at the close of the meeting.

*West Side Parcel/Las Virgenes, Lost Hills Intersection:*

#### **Group One**

When reviewing conceptual plans, consideration should be given to:

- Area has a newer community
- Community garden
- Environmental education, especially for kids
- Entry to Santa Monica Mountains
- Links to natural surroundings
- Noise, parking, erosion problems
- Croquet, bowling, bocce
- Artwork, stagecoach, well
- Nature walk
- Rustic, but attractive (views) not formal
- Community educational garden, but not formal garden
- Bridge to de Anza
- Birds, and animals along creek corridor – be sure to maintain wildlife
- No invasive (vegetation)
- Natives aren't invasive:
- Rugosa roses near creek
  - Cotoneasters
  - Food plants
  - Wild berries, nut trees, figs, etc.
- Educational uses should not contradict purpose

#### **IDEAS:**

- Native plant, low impact garden
- Compatible plants, more active educational use
- Tie in de Anza party history
- Trail head to State Park
- Think About Context:
  - Las Virgenes MWD
  - State Park
  - de Anza: 184 acres of open space plus 10 in park
  - State land as ball fields

**Group Two:**

- 1.8 acres
- Information on local history – Native Americans
- Community park with swings, playground with larger than neighborhood park in the east
- Passive recreation/picnic tables
- Consider “State Scenic” guidelines
- Protection of creek
- Trail access
- Equestrian trail
- ADA access
- Community garden – cultural/educational area, organic compost, local school plots, opportunities with existing wild food garden
- Gateway to Santa Monica Mountains
- Open skating area for practice
- Water feature, similar to Vancouver, “Water Play”
- Keep in mind gateway area to recreation
- Nature center – simple
- Education of local vegetation and wildlife

*East Side Parcel/Headwaters Corners:*

**Group One:**

- Open space: unspoiled natural land
- Steep north-facing slopes: unstable geology
- Hills and site contains endangered species  
Grading and retaining walls would violate scenic corridor ordinance
- Playfields, ball fields not appropriate
- Very little needs to be done to make it good open space – minor trash removal
- Link to Mountain Restoration Trust site
- Traffic light may be only option and is not acceptable
- Purchase of property was a problem
- Elaborate engineering is no good
- Security issue of underground passage
- Making a connection is perhaps not possible
- Rancho Sierra Vista – Native American Camp
- Amphitheatre with Native American structure as an idea for box canyon
- Anything in box canyon would be too disturbing – keep development out
- Wildlife on-site is a major resource - use should not scare off wildlife
- Surrounding homeowners know site
- Extreme street noise: traffic, emergency vehicles, and trucks
- Contemplative space will be a problem due to noise
- Trail – low-impact, no motorbikes
- Clean it up
- Micor property – trails were gouged
- Trails should be hand dug
- No fire pits/Council circles - Don’t encourage fire, teens gathering or graffiti
- Maybe a few benches – less than on west side parcel

- East side parcel should tie to MRT, (?) maybe parking
- Use Creekside parking
- No water

**Group Two:**

- Parking and trail head access off Old Topanga road
- Interpretive information – education on trees - signs on path or at the center and or brochures
- ADA access walkway around park
- Plan carefully with regards to Walnut and Oak trees
- Underground tunnel access
- Remove illegal fill, keep as “natural and untouched,” no ball fields
- Playground with bicycle and tricycle access (Creekside as an option!)
- Metal guardrail – replace with wood or remove

**Closing Remarks/Next Steps**

- **Sam Gennawey, MIG:** Mr. Gennawey facilitated a closing discussion, wherein citizen delegates from each of the sub-groups reported back to the main group. The groups had a range of opinions for the west side parcel from natural open space to community gardens, or an educational center (less activity) to more active uses, such as playfields or ball fields. Both groups noted that the area was a gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains and when reviewing the site, the city should keep it within the context of the Santa Monica Mountains and existing, or potential open space.

For the east side parcel, participants in both groups tended to favor more passive uses that emphasize the site’s natural features. There was a range of opinions on what “open space” might encompass, from simple unpaved trails, to accessible walkways, to a national park service-style, rustic amphitheatre.

**March 2003 Workshop**

*Overview*

The second in a series of three community workshops for the City of Calabasas’ Parks and Recreation Master Plan development took place on Monday, March 10, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at De Anza Community Center. The workshop was conducted in open house format with four stations, which contained:

- Station One: community input and comments to date
- Station Two: review of current open space conditions, community park service areas, new or improved park facilities that the public feels is needed, and a prioritized list of specialized facilities
- Station Three: East Side park development concepts
- Station Four: West Side park development concepts

Community Services Director Jeff Rubin welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the session. Approximately 35 people attended the open house and shared comments with project team members and City staff. Project team members and staff facilitated and recorded discussions at each of the four stations. Participants were encouraged to write comments at each station and many wrote comments on notepaper and attached them directly onto display boards or maps. Additional comments were recorded on flip charts.

*Highlights of Findings:*

At Station One, participants were appreciative of the comments expressed by the two Youth Leadership Classes from Calabasas High School and A.E. Wright Middle School. Many supported the concept of adding a teen center, as outlined by students at the two schools. Some were surprised that the youth were interested in outdoor nature activities, and one alternative (minority) comment was expressed that the youth will not have an equal voice in contributing to the decision making process. The majority view reiterated earlier public input comments that open space should be preserved and trails could become an interconnecting link.

At Station Two, the participants indicated their top three preferences for what specialized new facilities would be: an environmental education area, additional group picnic areas, and an amphitheater. In contrast, a formal garden, indoor recreation center and/or sports complex, and larger or new dog park received no ranking by the open house participants.

At Station Two, the public also reviewed the preliminary results of a random household survey conducted as part of the project, which indicated the three most needed recreation facilities in Calabasas are: sport fields, trails/paths, and open space.

At Station Three, participants viewed two potential options for park development at Old Topanga Road and Mulholland Highway. Concept A is conceived as a passive park with native plant restoration and trailhead connections. Concept B has the restoration and trailhead connections of Concept A, with additional features, such as a connection to the future environmental education center across the street and a children's play environment taking its inspiration from the natural and cultural history of the area. While Option A was valued for its open space, Option B was favored. Areas of divided opinion were in regards to the children's play area, parking and access to the new Mountains Restoration Trust headquarters facility and future environmental educational center across the street.

At Station Four, participants viewed two potential options for park development at the corner of Lost Hills and Las Virgenes Roads. Option A was conceived as a more active park with basketball courts and a community garden, while Option B was more passive in design. The majority of participants didn't want a duplication of De Anza Park and preferred Option B.

*Comments by Station:*

**General Comments:**

- For more input, advertise more for parents to know ideas kids would be interested in to speak out about. Let the public know things. Not everyone gets Calabasas' public channel.
- Calabasas is beautiful. Please keep new developments low key.

**Station One**

Display information included wallgraphics from two facilitated Youth Leadership Classes from Calabasas High School and A.E. Wright Middle School; reproduced wallgraphic of public comments from the first Community Workshop held on Dec. 10, 2002; and key preliminary findings from the random household survey.

**Flip Chart Comments:**

- I'm surprised that the youth preferred hiking and outdoor activities to parks as a learning experience.
- It's interesting that the youth prefer natural settings for the West Park.
- They want more of an outdoors experience.
- Kids are burnt out on high-tech activities, we want something else. It's nice to go somewhere peaceful.
- Community should help maintain trails and parks – “sweat equity” brings more value into ownership.
- Children's' voice doesn't have equal weight.
- Kids like to hike and open space and trails are needed and need to be safe.
- Advertise! Kids will respond to pictures.
- If you want information for youth, advertise what they want or what interests them.
- Transportation is needed for kids (to get to programs/services) parents don't want to drive after 8 p.m.
- Dive in movies sounds good!

**Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:**

- Teen Center is needed, near or in the new City library.
- Acquire open space and have a teen center.

**What's Missing?:**

- We live in a cowboy country and it's perceived that open space belongs to all, but the reality is that there's very little open space. Open space is limited. We don't have as much as we think we do. The East Side needs to be open, it's highly valuable.
- Trails now are on private property. We need more public access.
- The information is interesting. Trails are the thread that ties together public and open space areas. It's very important.
- Emphasis seems to be on trails, but is it? Helpful to have information on trail usage – are there any figures? How do you evaluate usage?
- Analysis of existing environmental and cultural conditions on both park sites. It's needed so that the public can understand the evaluation tools
- Could there be an economic partnership between the City and school district, to save programs and services? Funding (for programs/services) should go where it's most useful and where used.
- There's nowhere for kids to play on the East side.
- Motorbikes on weekends on the East side parcel/Mulholland area a major concern for noise and speeding, and any design should keep that in mind.
- Creekside Park is an issue because there's a lack of access to park.

**Additional comment: Yes!**

- Stream on West Side parcel could become a natural barrier on de Anza site between kids and the public and equestrian use.

**Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:**

- Community areas for meetings, picnics, etc. are too expensive to use.

**Comments written on the A.E. Wright Middle School Wallgraphic:**

- More sports and trips to theme parks or ski/snow resorts.
- "Dive in movies" are a good idea. Sell food and request movies.
- One participant indicated several geographic areas on the Existing Parks and Recreation Resources from the middle school discussion. They include: Stokes, Cold Creek, Dry Canyon Creek, Arroyo Calabasas, McCoy Creek. Note: These were corrections to the map to ensure that creeks were labeled correctly.

**Comments written on Calabasas High School Wallgraphic:**

- (in regard to a suggestion to put an In and Out Burger on the East Side parcel) Put an In and Out at The Triangle, south of Calabasas High School.
- (in regard to a suggestion for the East Side parcel left for natural beauty with minimal development and a passive park) Yes!

- (in regard to a suggestion for trails for hiking and biking on the East Side parcel) Biking trails with multiple levels: kids/family and challenging.
- (in regard to a suggestion to have piped-in music similar to the Commons at the West Side parcel) Is this serious?
- (in regard to the Existing Park and Recreation Resources map) – does the East Side parcel extend further?
- (in regard to a suggestion to have a fee-free club/teen center) Good idea. Kids don't usually have lots of money and parents don't give them much. The idea for a club is great for bands to go play. Great for Friday nights.
- (in regard to a suggestion for an educational center) Uses MRT property on the East parcel for a park and park educational program.

**Station Two**

The exhibits at Station Two consisted of an open space map, a community park service area map, a neighborhood parks service area map, a display board listing the three most-needed recreation facilities or activities in Calabasas from a random household survey, and a listed of specialized facilities for future consideration.

Participants were asked to place a sticky dot next to their top three choices for specialized facilities. The results are as follows:

Specialized Facilities	# of dots
Environmental education area	5
More group picnic areas	5
Amphitheater	5
Teen Center	4
Botanical Gardens	3
Historical buildings/sites	3
Sports field complex	2
Splash pool or other water playground	2
Performing arts center	2
In-line skate/hockey area (larger or second facility)	1
Downtown plaza (gathering place like The Commons)	1
Nature center (added to list)	1
Adventure playground	0
Formal gardens (rose, etc.)	0
Indoor recreation center	0
Another indoor sports complex (gym)/health club	0
Dog park (larger or second facility)	0
Model car/airplane area	0

**Comments from Specialized Facilities display board:**

- Teen Center should be located near new library/City Hall complex should allocate some of the new rooms.

- Watch out. Don't spend too much money on City Hall. Integrate teen center with existing facilities.
- When planning new activities/events, definitely try to utilize existing facilities before building unnecessary new structures. – **Additional comment:** Agreed.
- Too many frivolous attractions/centers/activities, etc. cheapen the city. Makes the city seem like an amusement park. Developments should be kept in low key to help maintain the peaceful environment that makes Calabasas such an enviable city to live in. **Additional comment:** I agree to an extent.

Development must be conscious of wildlife and not be excessive. No one wants an overbuilt Calabasas.

**Most Needed Facilities or Activities:**

The second display board listed the three most needed recreation facilities or activities in Calabasas as identified by respondents to the random household survey. These were responses to an open-ended question, where respondents were asked to write in their top priorities. The results were tabulated and presented at the open house. Open house participants attached comments to the respective recreation listings:

Activity	# (from survey)	Comments from Open House
Sport fields	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Survey oriented towards active parks, not so much passive, where parents can go picnic, etc.</li> <li>▪ I agree!</li> </ul>
Trails/paths	53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trails and parks, this is my top three!</li> <li>▪ I agree!</li> </ul>
Open Space	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bikes trails and lanes connecting the city's neighborhoods.</li> <li>▪ Survey did not include passive use.</li> <li>▪ Please keep the nature. Wildlife needs to live too. I don't appreciate the coyotes and such being pushed into my backyard and eating my pets, seriously.</li> </ul>
Swimming	23	
Basketball courts: Outdoor, indoor	12	
Tennis courts: Outdoor, indoor, more courts, tennis center	9	
Senior activities	9	
Community gathering place	6	
Cultural center	6	
Horseback riding	5	
Golf	4	
Health/fitness club	4	
In-line skate facilities	4	

**Additional Comments:**

- East side of Calabasas needs an area where community picnics could be held. No place for children ages 7-11 to run around or play after school.

**Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:**

- Improve landscaping at Creekside: also ADA access is needed
- Picnic tables/swings in Mulwood

**Specific Comments on Existing Parks:**

De Anza, Gates Canyon, Grape Arbor, Tennis and Swim Center, Freedom, Bark Park, Highlands, Community Center.

- I don't live close enough to go to a park. Walking is transportation. Closer to CHS, A.C. Stelle would be great places.

**Freedom Park:**

- Size and access is an issue (see open space map)
- Recommend no gate at Freedom
- A well-kept secret. I lived up the road for 12 years and never knew it was there!
- Freedom Park needs major upgrade of landscape and ADA access.

**De Anza Park:**

- Replace 10+ equipment with new equipment.
- Really likes the 10+ equipment, it's "unique!"

**Creekside Park:**

- Access to Creekside is an issue. Or sell it off as a private club?

**Tennis and Swim Center:**

- Advertise that if only \$1 per person under 18. It will get kids to say, "Only \$1, I thought it was \$10."

**Open Space Map:**

The open space map depicted the planning area boundary, city limits, school locations, neighborhood parks, community parks, mini parks, special use parks, undeveloped parkland, City open space and other open space. Participants placed comments written on sticky notes, directly on the map. These included:

- Annex Cold Creek community to City of Calabasas (Hal's walked the viewshed boundaries)
- Need to show the open space in the adjoining land for wildlife cross connections. **Additional comment:** Agreed.
- What are the criteria for the "planning area?"
- Weedy area behind the Commons could be used as parkland
- Where are the open space connections to open space outside City of Calabasas' "planning area?"
- Keep as much land as possible open. It is the natural beauty that differentiates Calabasas from other neighboring cities. A perfectly manicured environment doesn't belong in the real world. Once land is developed it can never be returned to its natural state no matter how much research and effort is put into the site. Plenty of

Calabasas is developed. There is only so much to do in a small community like this. **Additional comment:** I absolutely agree with this. New structures are not always necessary. We must preserve our open space, for everyone's sake.

- This is City of Calabasas open space? (pointing toward an area on the map's southwest corner near Las Virgenes Circle.
- This visual area to annex to city? (referring to the planning area in the southern part of the map)

#### **Community Park Service Areas:**

The map indicated the service area for each of the city's Community Parks within a one and one-half mile radius. Comments printed on sticky notes and attached to the map include:

- Appearance attracts kids like nothing else!
- An overwhelming amount of the city, as shown here, is a park of other development. Why develop any further?
- Festival, carnivals, attracting, gatherings to get public involved and maybe get a profit!
- Where does the profit go? Carnivals are a great way to get the community involved, however, not too often.
- Make parks easily accessible so kids will go!
- Clarify access and size (too small?) of Freedom Park, parking?
- Use (area near Creekside Park) with MRT as the urban high-use area and the East Park rural low-impact run, hike, view, nature are underpass between

#### ***Station Three***

##### **East Side Park Site**

Two preliminary design concepts were shown for the East Side Park site, located at the intersection of Old Topanga Canyon Road and Mulholland Highway.

*East Side Concept A* featured native plant restoration, an ADA-compliant loop trail with interpretive signage, benches, and trailheads to the regional trail system. With the exception of two ADA-compliant parking spaces, parking for this option would take place at nearby Creekside Park. A path connection would be created between the East Side Park and Creekside. Comments taped to the map include:

- I like the interpretive signs!
- Benches should be very rustic.
- Love the porous paving!
- Absolutely, native plants are only natural once. Stay with natural beauty.
- Priority #1:
  - Much less environmental impact with Plan A
  - Restore the stream in Concept A
  - **(Additional comment:** I second this)
  - Put other play areas, courts, etc. in Creekside Park

- How close would this trailhead be to existing trails that are part of the Santa Monica Mountains Park System (e.g., Backbone Trail)?

*East Side Concept B* featured a connection to an environmental education center proposed to be located across Mulholland Highway from the site. An undercrossing would link the two sites, with a potential alternative of an on-grade crossing of Mulholland. In addition to providing the native plant restoration, an ADA-compliant loop trail

- This is City of Calabasas open space? (pointing toward an area on the map's southwest corner near Las Virgenes Circle.
- This visual area to annex to city? (referring to the planning area in the southern part of the map)

Comments taped to the map included:

- Prefer B to A, but remove play area and do not have fences. Running water of some sort is important.
- Leave the play areas to de Anza and the new middle school. Would disrupt natural flow.
- Maybe children's play area could be in Creekside Park!
- Children's play environmental area moved to Creekside Park.
- Tables, benches, rest area? Equipment and courts? Those are some ideas, and water or stream like in concept B is a great idea!
- Great place for a park because it would let kids from the high school and Chaparral go, plus A.C. Stelle kids can go when it opens.
- How do we get people from Creekside to Headwater and east side?
- Prefer concept B without children's play zone.
- Establish a springhouse and let pipe take it to a pond north of walnut tree as a year around shallow pond as the stream washes out with high water and this pond can naturalize over the seasons.
  - Picnic area with MRT
  - Entry off of Old Topanga
  - No signal
- Do need parking for 12-16 (?) Park benches at both ends not outside areas in back area.
- Small group area in box canyon very rough – with a mortar (current made in rock near by)
- Have interface with MRT. Underpass for people and wildlife from one side to the other of Mulholland (width important)
- I'd not put a children's play area on East Side Park unless it's set way back because of traffic danger. Better it should be in Creekside.
- Keep park benches to visible trail (i.e. visible from Mulholland).
- Restore Headwaters – no fences!
- Need to restore protected open space in this area.
- It's really, really important to have parking access from Old Topanga Canyon.

**Comments:**

- In any conceptual option, a traffic signal is ruinously degrading.
- Move child's play back in canyon.
- Educational circle back in canyon.
- Underpass preferred.
- The planning could be done in such a way that a traffic light will not be necessary. For example, parking at Creekside Park is good.
- This is a naturally beautiful setting. I believe the less is more rules can relate here. I prefer plan A, but the idea of a creek is good.
- I like the idea of connecting the trails. This would be fabulous!
- Concept A best preserves the natural beauty and value of the site without a traffic signal.
- East side parcel concept plan: Concept A best preserves the natural state of this site and is therefore preferable.

**Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:**

- East side parcel concept A is much preferable to concept B. Preserving the natural view shed from the highway is consistent with scenic corridor ordinances.
- East side parcel: underground connection is a great idea.
- (Like) Plan B. But don't duplicate the MRT nature/educational/interpretive center.
- (Dislike) Plan A, needs trailhead parking for open space trails (City and Conservancy)
- (Like) Prefer B without play environment, which should be at Creekside.
- (Dislike) A: There is no shielding for car park (to reduce visibility from Mulholland)

***Station Four***

**West Side Park Site**

Two concepts were also shown for the West Side Park site. *West Side Park Site Concept A* featured more active uses, with a bridge to de Anza Park, an interactive water play feature, picnic shelter, basketball courts, native plants along the creek canyon, and a trailhead to the Malibu Creek State Park trail system (with a kiosk with trail maps). Two bocce courts, a seating wall and benches were also provided. Community garden space was offered as an option. Alternative site options would replace the basketball courts with a skatepark and the bocce courts with a half basketball court. Parking would be provided at De Anza Park and along the street. This concept also has an eight-foot sidewalk along Las Virgenes Road., an ADA-compliant path to Lost Hills Rd., and service access from Las Virgenes Road.

**Comments taped to the map include:**

- This site is so close to de Anza, why bother creating a similar site? Concept B is much better suited to Calabasas.

- Will there be too much availability for the limited parking?
- Interactive water play could be nice. Should definitely include some kind of running water - relaxing.
- This is a park in Calabasas, not an attraction at an amusement park.
- Yay! Bocce courts!
- Basketball courts would get more use than a skate park, but would prefer natural habitat to both.
- Community garden is a good idea. Nice addition.
- Is a full time roller hockey court really necessary?
- Regarding the community garden – be careful of invasives!

**Information on a flipchart:**

- Put a wood cover on bocce court for shuffleboard or a portable ping pong table.
- Provide horse trailer access in concept B, either cooperatively with State Parks or on city property alone – separation of people and horses.

*West Side Concept B* features a native plant restoration and demonstration garden with a loop path, interpretive signs, and benches; a picnic shelter; restroom; and trailhead to Malibu Creek State Park trail system. On-site parking is provided adjacent to the trailhead. An alternative site option would provide community garden space in addition to the native plant demonstration garden.

**Comments taped to the map include:**

- Concept B best suits the site's adjacency to the Santa Monica Mountains open space. Concept A degrades the corridor.
- Could, maybe you put a bunch of baby oaks fronting Las Virgenes to eventually create a sound and visual barrier?
- Make this a staging place for mountain bikers and horses (indicated an area on the northwest side of the property, east of Las Virgenes Creek).
- Much better concept than concept A. Things should be kept more natural. Since the site is only two acres, it seems like a relatively small project. Shouldn't the land be left natural? Is it really necessary to develop everything?
- Concept B would flow better with the rest of the area – scenic corridor, and is a nice contrast to the busy activities of de Anza Park. Community garden would be wonderful with other indigenous plant life and possibly some relaxing streams or waterfalls.
- I think I like the native plant restoration and demonstration garden idea the best.
- Concept B preferred without the community garden.

**Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:**

- (Like) concept A – should be no access from L.V. road

- (Dislike) Community garden, difficult to keep well maintained.
- (Like) Plan B without community garden. However, native plants will need maintenance.
- (Dislike) Plan A is an off-shoot of de Anza and inappropriate for this location on L.V. Road

### **November 2003 Workshop**

The third community workshop was held November 10, 2003, at Calabasas City Hall. The purpose of this open house format workshop was to present the elements of the draft master plan and provide opportunities for public review and comment. Specific support was expressed for some of the recommendations, in particular for providing a playground accessible to youth of all ages and abilities. The proposal to provide neighborhood parks on three school sites attracted the most comments. There was concern the two existing sites could not accommodate separate facilities, but a desire to increase public access to the existing play facilities. In addition, there was concern about the possibility of the proposed new elementary school being located within a gated neighborhood, and a related concern about spending public funds on park facilities that might not be readily available to the public. As a result, the recommendations were revised.

## **Youth Workshops**

The Las Virgenes Unified School District participated in a youth participation component of the City of Calabasas' Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Leadership Classes from A.E. Wright Middle School and Calabasas High School participated in the youth-oriented outreach effort. Community Services Director Jeff Rubin gave an overview of the parks master plan process. He was joined by the city's Special Events Coordinator Aimee Eastman. MIG staff members Gail Connors and Eileen Takata facilitated and graphically recorded both sessions, respectively.

The two Leadership Classes provided insight into the teens' likes/dislikes, desires, and vision for the future of Calabasas Parks and Recreation. While the middle school students expressed concern over not knowing enough about City programs, they offered suggestions on activities they would like to see added, as well recommending a variety of communications tools to ensure they receive updated information.

Both groups overwhelmingly endorsed the concept of a Teen Center, though a few students at the high school were concerned it would not be used to its capacity. Both groups offered a variety of suggestions on what a Teen Center should offer, from passive activities, such as a study or movie room, to physical activities, such as athletic offerings, or a pool table. Both agreed that Calabasas teens needed a place "hang out."

Students at the high school had a detailed visioning discussion on potential development of two new park sites. While there were minor areas of disagreement, the majority of students preferred open space, natural landscaping and plants and passive parks, over active parks with concrete structures and ball fields or courts. They expressed concern the sites could be sold to developers, and emphatically stated they didn't want commercial sprawl.

### **A.E. Wright Middle School Leadership Class**

Students were given a handout with a listing of the City's teen-oriented programs and services. They were asked to indicate their top three favorites or priorities on the handout, which was collected at the end of the session. The group also verbally discussed the programs and services and indicated what programs they thought were beneficial to teens, as well as programs they felt the City should consider adding to the youth program. Students were asked what parks they attend, how they spend their time after-school, and if they would be interested in a Teen Center.

*Programs and Services*

**Youth Preferences**

<b>Responses in Favor: (Verbal)</b>	<b>Responses in Favor: (Comment Card)</b>	<b>Programs or Services</b>
16	9	Teen Court Program
15	9	Commercial Acting Classes
12	9	Blue Angels Youth Ski and Snowboard (3 days at Tahoe)
11	6	Teen Advisory Committee
10	7	Basic Acting
9	4	Counselor-in-Training Program
9	7	Volunteer Program
9	2	Zacharatos Karate and Kickboxing
6	3	Art Classes
6	2	Guitar Boogie
6	7	Hip Hop Dance
2	1	Dancers West
1	0	Celebrate Art
One student commented that “some,” or a “small” number of people might be interested		Adventures in Art

*Ideas/Suggestions*

The following list indicates programs or services that the middle school students would be interested in, if offered by the City of Calabasas.

- Offer more beach trips
- Offer more sports opportunities, such as swimming, soccer clinics, basketball camps, or one week with Coach Bibby
- Schedule “Dive-in” movies
- Open a dance studio
- Build a Teen Center: they would like to have somewhere to go
- Offer transportation for programs: student indicated it was difficult to get to Calabasas from other areas
- Support fund-raising efforts to cross-promote events
- Offer more frequent Mountain High trips, such as one day a week
- Organize festivals:
  - Art
  - Carnival
  - Advertise events
  - Earth-Day: recycled materials
  - Music featuring local (alumni) bands such as Incubus and Lincoln Park.
- Coordinate transportation:
  - Work on a system with Agoura and Bell Canyon
  - Use Dial-a-Ride service
- Open a Skate Park

*Issues/Concerns*

Students indicated they were not familiar with the City’s quarterly Parks and Recreation Brochure, and that they were unsure of how to access information about Parks Programs. Mr. Rubin provided the students with brochures and encouraged them to visit the City’s website at: [www.calabasas.ca.us](http://www.calabasas.ca.us) for additional information.

Comments regarding program notification were:

- There’s a lack of information about programs
- Colored announcement sheets (sent home from school) don’t work
- Use more descriptive pictures in promoting programs
- It’s difficult for non-Calabasas residents to obtain information on programs

Students obtain information:

- From word-of-mouth
- From friends
- By E-mail

Students offered the following suggestions for promoting programs and services:

- Advertise around the Commons
- Use TV Ads:
  - With music
  - On the WB
  - On cable
- Store Fliers or information at:
  - Barnes and Noble
  - Mann’s Theatre Trailer Ads
- Advertise in school programs

*Parks Attendance*

Students indicated with a show of hands which Calabasas Parks they attend or use.

<b>Responses: (show of hands)</b>	<b>Park</b>
10	Tennis Center
6	Gates Canyon
5	De Anza
3	Community Center
3	Bark Park
0	Grape Arbor

*General Comments*

- One student expressed concern that there wasn’t any park close to Town Crier Rd.
- One student felt the City shouldn’t automatically rent out to AYSO or other sports leagues such as lacrosse

- One student felt the Volunteen program needs to be expanded to other schools (such as Agoura High)
- One student said she didn't live in Calabasas, and that transportation to any event or program posed an ongoing problem

*Follow up Question*

One student asked if points count toward credit in the Volun-teen Program, if a student does not go to Calabasas High?

*Teen Center*

The City of Calabasas wanted to ascertain whether Calabasas Youth was interested in having a Teen Center. The group overwhelmingly expressed interest in having a teen center, which they see as central place for activities or as an after-school destination. Potential facilities and programs suggested by the students include:

- Air hockey
- A work-out room with weights
- Arcade games
- A movie room
- Pool tables
- Basketball and volleyball courts
- Dance studio
- Rock climbing wall
- A pool
- A lounge area to “hang out” in
- Snack or coffee shop
- A facility similar to JCC
- Computer/Internet stations and access
- A shuttle between the Teen Center and schools

*After-school Services*

Students suggested the following after-school services, which could be housed at the Teen Center:

- After-school tutoring
- Job placement or coordination, especially for students – perhaps have a billboard with job listings
- Volunteer work and coordination
- Non-sports options
- Relaxed “hang out” area

*What do the A.E. Wright students do after school?*

The City of Calabasas is interested in understanding where students spend their time outside of school. The students responded:

- Sports

- Hang out with friends
- Stay at school and do homework
- Stay at home and be on the computer
- Dance
- Half of the class indicated they went home to an empty house after school

### Calabasas High School

Students were given a handout with a listing of the City’s teen-oriented programs and services. They were asked to indicate their top three favorites or priorities, which was collected at the end of the session. Since the students were drawn to the potential development of the two park sites, they did not verbally discuss programs and services.

Students were asked what they felt would be appropriate for the two park sites; their interest in a Teen Center; and their after-school activities.

#### *Programs and Services*

#### Youth Preferences

Responses in Favor: (Comment Card)	Programs or Services
15	Hip Hop Dance
12	Blue Angels Youth Ski and Snowboard (3 days at Tahoe)
10	Volunteen Program
9	Teen Court Program
7	Art Classes
6	Counselor-in-Training Program
6	Zacharatos Karate and Kickboxing
4	Teen Advisory Committee
3	Commercial Acting Classes
3	Basic Acting
3	Dancers West
1	Adventures in Art
0	Celebrate Art

#### *Ideas/Suggestions*

The following list indicates programs and services that the high school students would be interested in, if offered, by the City of Calabasas.

- Lifeguard certification
- Pilates
- Yoga
- Art and dancing. “Teen advice is very important.”
- Maybe a music program or a theatre center.

### *Potential Park Site Development*

#### **West Side Parcel – Las Virgenes/Lost Hills Location**

Students suggested the following in regards to development of the parcel:

- Include a natural barrier such as trees along the perimeter that borders Las Virgenes Highway
- If there's a ten foot drop between the perimeter and the road, there's no need for a fence or barrier
- Consideration should be given to the wildlife corridor in that area when developing property
- Perhaps have a "tie-in" to the Commons (such as piped in music)
- Create a Nature Center
- Have traditional playground equipment, such as swings
- Don't duplicate activities at nearby De Anza Park
- Have a passive park with barbeques and picnic areas and such amenities, as benches and picnic facilities
- Bring more activity to the area such as roller hockey
- The intersection is dangerous – development should consider the potential for cars to end up on the edge of the park site
- Ensure safe in-and-out parking
- Don't develop the park – leave as open space
- Have an interactive fountain, similar to Universal City Walk
- Any additional traffic in that area is cause for concern

#### **East Side Parcel – Old Topanga Canyon/Mulholland Location**

Students suggested the following in regards to development of the parcel:

- The area has a natural beauty; there should be minimal development
- Passive park
- Have a botanical garden similar to Huntington Gardens, with an educational/informational center and plant labels
- Build trails for hiking and biking
- A concrete, large construction project would disrupt the peace and natural beauty of the area
- Amenities should include: sports field, as there is nothing near by
- Construct a nature center, so youth would have a place to go
- Construct a recreational center
- Landscape the area to reflect local area (native plants)
- Keep the landscape natural
- Construct a basketball court surrounded by trees and trails
- Plan for open space and recreation – it's a vision for Calabasas
- There should be less development and less traffic
- People who live near the park want to keep it natural
- The high school has existing recreational amenities (which is close to the site), which people could use
- The youth need a place to go and parks are a good opportunity
- Build an In-and-Out Burger
- There should not be any lights. There currently aren't any lights and it's nice when it's dark

### *General Comments*

- One student stated that the City should prevent commercial or housing development.
- The City is developing a master plan, is there even an option as to whether it can be left as open space?

### *Teen Center*

The high school group expressed interest in having a teen center, though they were divided as to whether it would be used to its highest potential. Comments included:

- Gear a Teen Center toward high school students, with separate activities for younger students
- It's important to give kids a place to go
- Teen Center should be a meeting place for clubs
- Transportation to and from the center and schools is necessary
- Sports classes offered could include:
  - A work-out room with weights
  - Yoga
  - Kick-boxing
- Teen Center could keep kids off the street, but it might not necessarily work
- It should include summer programs
- Include intramurals
- Include pool and foosball tables
- Orient classes toward ability:
  - Make it cool to go to a class at the center
- It's good in concept, but not sure if it will work
- Should include activities for kids under 18 that they can't participate in anywhere else (such as pool tables)
- Include a snack bar
- Have an entertainment club that promotes use for bands and dances
- More kids will use it if there's no fee or a low fee
- Construct an amphitheatre:
  - Similar to Topanga
  - A place where bands can play or people can picnic
- Include a study lounge

### *After-school Activities*

Students were asked about their after-school activities. Of those that responded:

- Five had jobs
- Twelve stayed in Calabasas
- Six traveled outside Calabasas