



Reverence · Ripples · Relationships · Resilience

La Tercera Park Community Engagement Findings Report

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Overview

Daily Acts, through the Land Resilience Partnership Program (a design and installation program funded from the State Department of Water Resources), will be working at La Tercera Park in Petaluma to sheet mulch some of the existing turf lawn to transform the space into a beautiful water-wise pollinator garden. The sheet-mulching will take place from October 7th to October 17th, 2024, and the planting of the garden is slated to be completed in the Spring of 2025.

As Daily Acts prepares to beautify a part of the park, we would like to ensure that the voices, perspectives, and concerns of the community are heard. To this end, Daily Acts will continue to canvass the neighborhoods around La Tercera Park to educate about the project, distributing surveys and hosting opportunities for conversations throughout the installation.

On Thursday, August 29th, Daily Acts hosted a Community Engagement Session at La Tercera Park with the purpose of understanding how the surrounding community engages with the park as well as hearing the community's input and concerns. The following ethnographic data points are the primary findings collected during the program and from the canvassing done prior. This information will be utilized to inform the scope of work and which zone of the park will be transformed.

Community Engaged

- Engagement Session participants: 30
- Survey Responses: 21
- Project Updates Email Opt ins: 11

Primary Findings

The Daily Acts team determined **the following key findings** from our program and survey:

- A significant majority of community members from Survey #1 preferred Zone C (see image 1) for the proposed garden, as it is the least utilized area of the park.

- Both in-person feedback and survey responses expressed concerns about sheet mulching Zone A, a well-used lawn area for soccer, volleyball, kids' birthday parties, and bounce houses. The community strongly opposed removing the lawn in this section.
- The community showed high engagement and interest not only in this project but also in the overall well-being of La Tercera Park, including tree plantings, community garden plots, new pathways, and other facilities.

Proposed Project Zones

The image below indicates possible areas identified for lawn transformation at La Tercera Park. Survey respondents were asked to refer to this image while answering the questions. A decision on the project zone will be selected based upon community input.

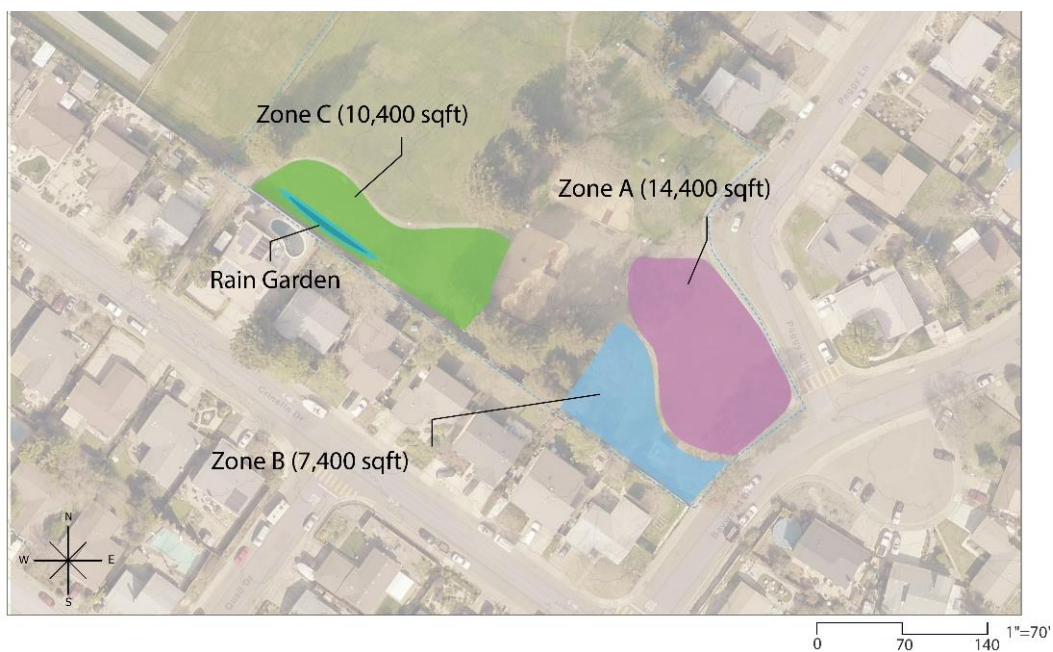


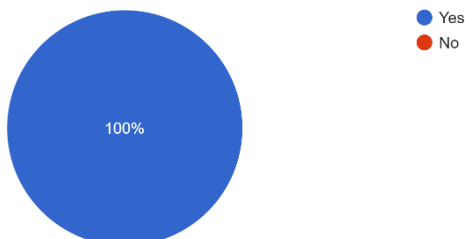
Image 1

Survey #1 Responses

Question 1 – “Do you live near La Tercera Park?”

Results – 100% of survey respondents who answered this question DO live by the park.

Do you live near La Tercera Park?
20 responses

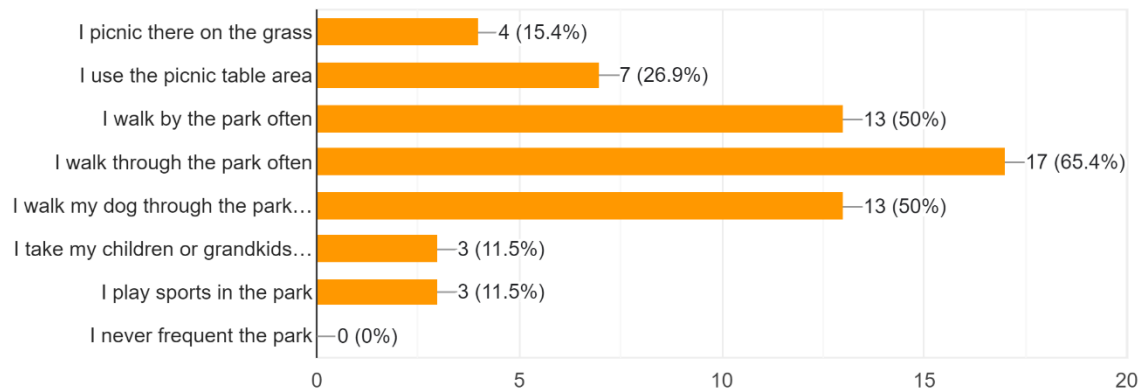


Question 2 – “How do you currently engage with La Tercera Park?”

Results – Of the 21 responses, not one individual said that they never frequent the park. 100% of the individuals who partook in the survey use the park in some format.

How do you currently engage with La Tercera Park? (mark all that apply)

26 responses

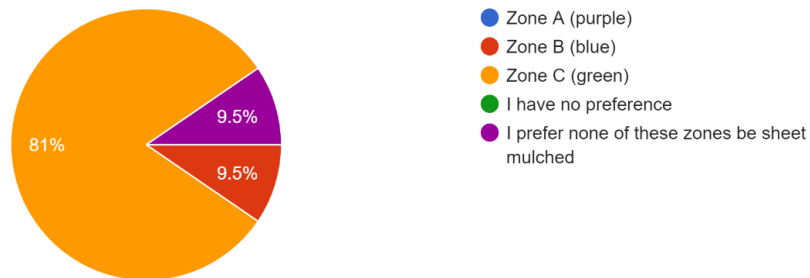


Question 3 – “Do you have a preference on which of these zones get transformed into a mulched landscape?”

Results – 81% of participants prefer Zone C be the project area transformed.

Above are the three zones of lawn we are considering as potential areas for this project. Do you have a preference on which of these potential zones get transformed into a mulched landscape?

21 responses



Community Excerpts:

- I encourage the planting of “*native plants, plants requiring little upkeep, succulents. A labyrinth would be nice for young and old. A rain garden would be nice as well as hummingbird garden.*”
- “*Please don’t take away any of the larger open grassy areas. I go to the park every day and these areas are frequently used as open spaces.*”
- “*People use section A and the back area for volleyball, baseball, and football. I like Zone C because it gets less usage, it gets muddy and can help with flooding*”

- *“I grew up in this neighborhood, and now we use the back area for T-Ball. I like Zone C because it is the smallest and the safest.”*

Additional Comments on La Tercera Park:

- *“A bathroom at the park will be very convenient because there is a lot of activity throughout the year in this park but there’s no bathroom.”*
- *“A bathroom would be great to be added to the area.”*
- *“Wish we had a bocce ball court to bring the community together.”*
- *“We need the park to get upgraded play equipment and more shade over the play structures.”*
- *“More benches. Newer playground equipment for kids under 5. I’m sure some of this is city of Petaluma jurisdiction so just ideas.”*

Conclusion

Based on community feedback from the engagement session and surveys, Daily Acts will move forward with transforming Zone C of La Tercera Park into a water-wise, pollinator garden. To ensure continued community involvement, we will release follow-up surveys throughout the design and installation process, allowing for additional input. We are committed to ongoing outreach through neighborhood canvassing and providing regular updates via email for those who opt in. This collaborative approach will ensure the project reflects both environmental, water-conservation goals and the needs of the community.