

Background

Santa Fe Station Park is a community park that provides a variety of recreational opportunities, including walking paths, green and open space, playground facilities, turf areas, ramadas, disc golf course, and pickleball. The Santa Fe Station Park Master Plan is intended to help guide future park improvements and identify opportunities to enhance recreational amenities, accessibility, shade, landscaping, and the overall visitor experience.

As part of the master planning process, the Town conducted a community survey to better understand how residents use the park, their satisfaction with existing amenities, and their preferences regarding proposed improvements. The survey also included visual preference questions regarding landscaping and nature-based play concepts.

The survey was open from August 3 through September 13, 2026. A total of 318 usable responses were included in the final reporting dataset. The results provide insight into community priorities and preferences and will help staff evaluate potential improvements as the master plan moves forward.

Survey Highlights

- **Park Use:** 47% of respondents visit the park weekly or more, and 60% identified the multi-use path (MUP) as a primary reason for visiting.
- **Shade and Seating:** Shade was the strongest priority. 82% supported additional shade amenities, 81% identified path shading as a desired improvement, and 56% supported additional seating.
- **Overall Plan:** 84% agreed the plan provides a good balance of active and passive recreation, while 82% supported its open-space and sustainability approach.
- **Natural Features:** Respondents favored natural landscaping, native plants, wild flowers, trees, grasses, and nature-based play features. A rock-and-culvert tunnel received 75% support.
- **Existing Amenities:** Walking paths and green space received favorable satisfaction ratings. Disc golf had strong support from players, but a lower satisfaction rating, with comments emphasizing a need for maintenance and installation of signage. Pickleball had the lowest number of user responses; however, those responses showed a strong satisfied user group.
- **Additional Improvements:** Other supported additions included lighted walking paths (53%), riparian observation areas (51%), and nature play elements (47%).

Survey results indicate strong general support for the plan's overall direction, with shade, seating, disc golf maintenance/signage, and natural landscape features emerging as key priorities. This feedback will help guide refinements while maintaining the park's existing open-space character and recreational amenities.

The survey was voluntary and open to the public; results reflect participating respondents and should be considered community input rather than a statistically representative sample of all residents.

Fiscal Impact

No immediate fiscal impact is associated with receiving and discussing the master plan and survey results. Costs for future improvements will be evaluated as the plan is refined and implementation is considered.

Conclusion

Staff recommends the Commission review the survey findings, discuss community priorities, and provide feedback to support the continued development of the Santa Fe Station Park Master Plan.

The Santa Fe Station Park Master Plan provides an opportunity to guide future park improvements in a manner that reflects community priorities, preserves the park's existing strengths, and enhances recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The community survey demonstrates broad support for the overall direction of the proposed plan, with shade, seating, and disc golf course maintenance and signage representing the most significant areas for desired improvements. Preferences for natural landscaping and nature-based play also provide direction for future design refinement. Based on this community feedback, staff are planning to move forward with the elements that have been identified and recommend that all these considerations remain central to the parks master plan.

Staff requests that the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission review the survey findings, discuss the proposed master plan, and provide feedback to help guide the next steps in the process.