

Community Needs Assessment Review

Is anything missing?

- New skatepark
- Skateboard park! Only one skateboard park which is not good.
- We need more dog parks with lighting amenities. We need more inexpensive accessible meeting rooms.
- Skatepark? Community gardens? Size? Location?
- Tennis courts between Pioneer and Walnut parks
- Local community gardens, especially infill locations

Was there anything that surprised you?

- Surprised to hear of new sports complex idea – that needs more PR! Please help us have more community garden space! Especially in South Davis. Thanks.
- Skateboarding didn't appear on recreation surveys. I'm surprised people want public transport to local parks in Davis. Money could be better spent on property management and quality.
- I was surprised that Davis still doesn't have a high quality skateboard park to meet the needs of the large skateboard community. The only skatepark here is appreciated but not adequate for skateboarders to progress our skills and have fun.
- Thrasher magazine and Caliskatz skate shop said that the Davis skatepark is the worst in California, and was not worth traveling to.
- Incorp small dog parks near senior housing developments – good mental/physical health benefits
- Est. L.O.S. for dog parks
- Need lighting, phones for safety and to increase accessibility for a busy population
- Davis shuts down at 6pm, lighting park areas make them usable as social spaces after dark.
- It surprised me that Vet's Memorial Center is called a community center. It is inaccessible to small non-profit craft, sewing, knitting groups or non-profit clubs like photography, AA, etc.
- Consider flooded dog park at Toad Hollow is not available to consistent users during the rainy season.
- Restrooms are not considered often enough.
- All weather surfaces

Parks and Recreation Trends

What do these trends mean for the future of Davis?

- If the skateboarders are not accommodated, skaters are forced to look elsewhere, or not participate in their recreation of choice. New skateparks bring growth and promote selfhood in the youth culture.

- More parks that people can use and be relaxed and have a good time with their family.
- If more parks and recreational activities are offered than this is much better for the mind's health, and need for fun for residents and visitors.
- A safe environment.
- With so many people living in Senior housing and apartments. Dog parks add value to the community. People with dogs want to take them to dog parks and move to cities with dog parks. Sacramento is adding several new dog parks.
- Future mixed use by all ages
- Positive and active recreation
- Nature viewing
- Bocce Ball
- What about Grasslands?

Availability of Facilities

Are there enough opportunities for recreation in the City of Davis?

- Not enough
- Besides skateboarding, yes.
- Yes
- Not for skateboarders
- Skateboard parks
- Yes

What recreation opportunities and amenities are missing?

- Skateboard park
- A high-quality skatepark
- A better skate park
- Meeting rooms, community dog parks, gardens
- We missed a huge issue at the meeting: This is a perfect opportunity to make energy and water as self-sufficient as possible

What types of additional opportunities would you like?

- We want a skateboard park that is designed by skateboarders.
- The opportunity to skateboard hassle-free at a skatepark designed and built by TRUE skateboarders
- Additional opportunities: a street course for the skate park.
- Places to meet, clubs, etc.
- More fenced safe dog parks
- More off-leash recreation areas for dogs and people
- Dog walking and off-leash areas
- Lighting at several parks or greenbelt areas

- Community gardens – not enough
- Community meeting spaces formal and informal are insufficient
- Skate park, Inline skate rink

Accessibility of Facilities

How easy is it for you to get to parks in Davis?

- Pretty easy
- Love the greenbelts, great connectivity
- Very
- Neighborhood parks – easy. Crossing I-80 is a huge barrier. Mace overcrossing is not safe for kids. What about all the residents who live east of Dave Pelz overcrossing?

How do you get to Davis parks?

- Walking, biking
- Biking (so easy)
- It is dangerous to walk to Toad Hollow
- Walking, biking
- Walking: sometimes. Biking: seldom. Public transit: never. Centralize and improve connectivity
- Walking, biking and driving because my kids can't bike all the way to Community Park or Central Park.

Quality of Facilities

What is the quality of park and recreation facilities in the City of Davis?

- Fair
- Average
- Excellent

Do you feel that the following park qualities are adequate or should be improved?

Safety

- Adequate
- Skatepark is unsafe, small/ crowded, poor pavement
- Lots of homeless in parks makes them unsafe
- Need more
- Fine
- Call boxes. Why don't we see where there are 1) the most frequent calls to police and 2) where cell phones don't work. Not everyone has a cell phone, especially kids old enough to go for a bike ride alone with friends but not having a phone.

Lighting

- Needs improvement
- Bad quality, unusable after dark. Lights don't work.
- Need lighting in the skate park & dog park

- Need more
- Excessive and in the wrong areas

Wayfinding signage

- Adequate
- Need better signs
- Great map of greenbelts and parks
- Fine

Other

- The Davis skatepark is outdated, dangerous and poorly lit. The park design itself lends itself to dangerous collisions due to poor visibility, and the lights no longer function. Skateboarding is a fast-growing hobby among young demographics. A modern, safe, well-lit skatepark with proper design is necessary. A new skatepark would also function as a safe place for young people to access.
- The Davis skatepark is small, but doesn't even use its size efficiently. It is an outdated park with very little for modern skateboarding. The ramps there are poorly constructed, in terms of skateboarding, as none of them have the adequate space to take advantage of them. The lights hardly provide enough light to skate by, while most baseball and tennis courts have amazing lighting systems. Building a new skatepark or merely updating the old would help provide a safe, friendly place for many Davis youths.
- With skateboarding reaching all facets of popular culture, there are more skaters than ever in Davis and surrounding areas. This means our parks need an adequate skate facility. The present-day skatepark is poorly designed and lends itself to injuries. An updated/lit skatepark would give a place for skaters and keep them out of trouble and safe for everyone in the community.
- Cleanliness of skatepark. I see the baseball fields and it shows cleanliness and a very beautiful park. Then I see the skatepark and it is covered in small rocks, leaves and has no proper lighting, while the baseball fields have lights that are so bright that they hurt your eyes.
- Need more restrooms in downtown and parks
- Need emergency phones
- Need lighting
- Fields need better maintenance and more appropriate watering schedules
- Please note that as a woman and a mother of small kids, I do not feel safe at Community park in the area near the skate park and bathrooms there. It is very isolated and not visible from other areas.
- I will not let my kids go to Playfields Park unless I am supervising. Again, it feels isolated, cold and unless there is a game going on, there are people who feel threatening just hanging around.

Other Comments

- My comments and thoughts regarding tennis courts and facilities in town:

1. Frequency of court cleaning
2. Frequency of court maintenance (repair of wind screens, nets, cracks in court, etc.)
3. Installation of permanent restrooms near tennis courts (particularly those with six or more tennis courts) that could be used by multiple sports participants; hours open and means to reduce vandalism would need to be determined
4. Availability of squeegees for use at public tennis courts (nearby in small equipment shed or borrowed from City in some fashion)
5. Consideration of creating a public tennis center somewhere in town to broaden the choices for tennis players. The City of Walnut Creek is one example to review. City website: <http://www.walnutcreek.org/default.htm>
6. Explore cooperative use of the UC Davis tennis courts, e.g. in the summer months
7. Explore use of backyard tennis courts for competition (as is done in the Bay Area)
8. Create tennis subcommittee to Parks & Recreation Commission with representatives from Davis Tennis Club and other organized tennis groups in town
9. Determine equitable reservation system for tennis courts
10. Determine reasonable frequency of tournaments and weekend competitions on public courts throughout year
11. Review and utilize court sign up & reservation system during peak periods at all public courts, e.g. 1 hour singles, 1.5 hours doubles
12. Create priority list of tennis facility improvements that could be funded/funded in part by future residential and commercial developments through conditions of approval &/or development agreements

- If I can help in your skatepark project in any way please email or call me. I have been skateboarding for 14 years and am a volunteer skatepark advocate and designer. I do for love and passion for the sport and I want cities and skateboarders alike to be as happy as possible. Thank you.
- If a quality skatepark is constructed and maintained (though little maintenance is required for a quality CONCRETE skatepark) children/teens will flock to it.
- Why do some entities in Davis get more amenities and consideration than others (i.e. free meeting rooms)? Why does the city sponsor some programs and not others, i.e. soccer, swimming? We need clearer definitions and level of support given and why.
- Still a huge emphasis on soccer and soccer fields/complex
- Clearer definition of social clubs/groups that get city, parks & rec sponsorship. City sponsors some programs and not others. How is that determined?
- A multiuse sports center should be built on the evaporation ponds on Pole Line – proximity, connectivity, low cost, reuse, etc.