

Public Comment

- * 1. More shade at all parks! 2. A dog park/dog area downtown on grass. 3. Water play park (like a splash pad)
- * 100's of Pickleball players live in Benicia but with no dedicated outdoor courts always travel to Walnut Creek to play. If Benicia built 4 dedicated courts with permanent nets they would see a lot of play & keep the money spent on food, shopping etc. In Benicia
- * A path should be made from Francesca Terrace Park to Park Road. The distance is approximately 200'. Currently there is a cable hung at the Park Road side of an open space and there is (or were) holes in the fence on the Park side. There should be an official path. It would save over a mile of distance if/when walking from the park to the camel barns.
- * Add shade trees or structures to playgrounds. Add cooling stations with water misters or splash pads.
- * All my comments at this time pertain to Channing Circle Park which we live next to. The asphalt walkways need to be replaced with concrete as they are a hazard and unsightly. Low drought resistant landscaping should be added strategically as the park looks very bare. And, the live oaks that have sprung up on their own over the years are due for a trimming to reduce fire risk and allow more in the park to enjoy the view. Given the park location and a neighborhood park picnic benches, BBQs and a restroom is not appropriate. The grass could easily be ignited in the wind. And, a transcontinental fiber optic cable runs through the park limiting anything done below the ground.
Thanks for your attention
- * All weather soccer specific fields for Benicia youth sports and adult programs.
- * Allow more full court open gym time for adults. Have this for Benicia residents only to reduce headcount
- * An improvement is needed on the bay trail in between West F street and West 2nd Street. The trail that is parallel to Semple Ct is in poor shape. There are 3 opportunities to improve. 1. A possible liability to the City. Many bikers, joggers, walkers exit the trail onto Semple court at varying spots. This is a safety concern as cars are entering/exiting from residences on that road and many people try to park on Semple court to get access to the Bay trail. Limiting where one can exit and enter the Bay Trail from Semple Court would be advisable. At the moment bicyclists or joggers can quickly come onto the roadway. Better signage so it limits cars trying to enter and exit a dead end. 2) Given Semple Court and Semple Crossing is a part of the Bay Trail, the condition of the road itself needs significant improvement. Its rated less than 20 on the road index, has potholes, and we've seen people fall on multiple occasions.
- * Any park with more young tot options; a multi-season playing field for soccer and similar games; updated picnic areas and continued green space for picnic blanket picnics
- * Are there plans on rehabilitating the picnic area at the Benicia Community Park? And, are there plans to regularly maintain it? We love the community park but can rarely use the picnic space because of how dirty the grounds are and un-maintained the picnic tables are. We have young children and don't want to forgo usage of this valuable space because of what our kids are stepping on, picking up, and getting stuck with (old staples in the tables and unfinished/weathered wood that has splintered). A clean up of trash, fresh pebble ground covering and resurfacing of the tables would be a great thing to see- as well as broken or unusable BBQ areas.

- * As a parent of a young child it seems that many of our play structures are out of date, offer limited stimulation or exploration, and are not very inclusive of children with differing abilities. Recently we visited the wooden park of First Street and were incredibly disheartened to see so many components of the park in disrepair or completely removed. That park in particular was constructed with a large amount of community participation and it's such a shame to see it in the state that it is. We walked through the park a few times but eventually felt like there wasn't nearly as much to do as there used to be. We recently visited City Park in Winters and while I'm aware that their vast and amazing wooden structures were funded with assistance from their Rotary, it would be so wonderful if we could build upon and enhance our existing park so that it is more on par with current trends and general accessibility, and the level of engagement and exploration of that park.
- * As co-owner of Double Rainbow Cafe, with my husband, we are very invested in the community and culture of Benicia. We would love to have a permanent outdoor performance space, an amphitheater or outdoor stage, that could host dance performances, concerts and plays in our beautiful park spaces. This could also become an annual Arts Festival, bringing both tourism and community expression alive. We would love to be part of a project like this!
- * As people in Benicia are aging and looking to stay active, it would be nice to add a pickle-ball outdoor courts for both young and older people to enjoy.
- * Basketball is fast becoming one of the best sports that people play more and more often than before. We need to see more options for basketball in Benicia. -more adult open basketball time -allow more full court open gym time for adults -have 'benicia residents only' time for adults -more open gym time for 30+ -glass/clear upgraded backboards at parks
- * Benicia does a good job of making lots of interesting and uncrowded trails available throughout town; I'd like this to continue into the future, perhaps with an emphasis on mitigating spiky weeds (such as the yellow star thistle that is now beginning to emerge) near our open space trails.
- * Benicia has a significant untapped resource in its many acres of open space. Right now these spaces are little more than weed farms. As far as I can see the only time they are an attraction is when the goats come to eat the weeds. Who doesn't love the goats? I do, but we can do better. Lets explore options to develop these spaces to make our City even more beautiful; even more open to nature. Let's think big. What might be possible in these spaces? Botanic gardens? Bird sanctuaries? Wild animal reserves? Parks? Would dry farming or vineyards work? Would a space be appropriate for another solar farm? There would be many questions. Is the soil safe? What's possible? What's desirable? What would make a project a good neighbor to the surrounding homes? There will be so much to learn. Benicia High School and Solano College students would benefit from participating in these studies. Funding would be an issue. Would grant money be available? Well designed projects would be desirable amenities and would likely enhance the value of Benicia property. Would a bond issue make sense? Lots to think about. It would be a long term project. My thought would be an initial exploratory study
- * Benicia is well known and loved as a 'dog friendly town". Lately, I have observed more people take the liberty of removing leashes from their dogs. It makes me feel vulnerable.....Most dog owners misconstrue a person who does not welcome this, as one who does "not like dogs" or is "afraid, and doesnt know the dog is friendly." Being jumped on, or a large dog bumping an elderly person is threatening. Id like more signage indicating dogs should not be off leash, or on a long, expandable leash.....thank you.

- * Benicia needs decent Pickleball courts to accommodate this popular and growing sport of local residents. The courts at Community park are not user friendly due to the winds and court surfaces. Most of us are currently playing at the Glen Cove courts in Vallejo. These are beautiful and well maintained. There are only 2 courts and are always crowded. We should not have to leave our city in order to participate in a recreational activity. Please consider the development of some downtown courts or allowing one of the downtown tennis courts to be made into one or two Pickleball courts.
- * Benicia needs dedicated pickleball courts! Right now all pickleball players in Benicia and Vallejo are sharing just two dedicated courts, at Glen Cove park in Vallejo. But the game is played with a wiffle ball, which is sensitive to wind, so the courts in our windy town need to be in a place protected from the wind, either by geography or a serious wind barrier. I know there has been discussion of converting the temporary courts by the skate park at Community Park into dedicated courts - but if nothing is done to mitigate the terrible wind there, the expense would be wasted because people would not use them. Thank you for supporting pickleball in Benicia!
- * Benicia needs more pickleball courts, especially outdoor ones, thanks to our mild weather.
- * Benicia should really have a dedicated soccer complex for year round play. Watching and coaching over the years, and traveling to other cities, Benicia's "soccer" fields are a danger and embarrassment. Between long grass at the school fields and lumpy surfaces, I have heard and witnessed the many negative comments from the home and visiting communities. Soccer is Benicia's largest community sport and does not have a dedicated space. This should really be made a priority.
- * Benicia sorely needs dedicated soccer fields (at least 2, one of them with turf), to accommodate the needs of the soccer Community
- * Between 881 Rose Drive and 895 Bolton Circle there is open space that abuts Bolton Circle. In previous years, this area was used as an entry point by the tractor pulling the discs that made the fire lines. We appreciated the service at the time, however that operation inoculated the hillside with invasive mustard and fennel plants which have taken over and are a fire hazard. Currently the city does nothing to manage this space. The January 2005 state law PRC 4291 became effective that extended the defensible space clearance around homes and structures from 30 feet to 100 feet. Clearly this open space on Bolton Circle is within 100 feet of the surrounding houses. Having a maintenance plan for this open space is something that needs to be addressed. A city sanctioned trail connecting to the Bay Area Ridge trail from this Bolton Circle Open Space would help mitigate the fire risk in this area and give fire crews access they would need in the event of a wildfire.
- * BORN AND RAISED IN BENICIA I AM 100% OPPOSED TO A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON THE LARGE ARSENAL PROPERTY. SUCH IDEA IS SHOCKING AND ABSOLUTELY NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE IMPORTANT HISTORY OF BENICIA. I BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD REMAIN AS A PARK IN THE GENERAL PLAN OF BENICIA. THE BENICIA ARSENAL WAS PLACED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN 1976. PLEASE RESPECT THAT AND KEEP THE ARSENAL PROPERTY AS A PARK. THANKS.
- * Bridgeview Park needs a repaved basketball court (current is dangerous), a paved path through the park from Shirley to Lori (has long since deteriorated) and new playground equipment. I would be willing to help in any way. Thanks,
- * Completing the loop at Willow Glen park would add so much to the space... currently half the loop is degraded asphalt covered with mud. New pavement would provide a safe place for kids to work on bike riding and scootering. It's would be the only public space in the area that allows for those activities (because the roads are so degraded).
- * Consider turning the section of lawn at Waters End Park that runs along Kearney (between the path and the street/sidewalk into an orchard, a food forest, a mixed species meadow, or something that is ecologically beneficial and potentially creates food/community. This section of lawn does not seem to be used much as is.

- * Covid had really shown us the importance of a variety of activities and spaces that can be used when being inside is not an option. Some sort of outdoor space would be wonderful. We have beautiful weather and views in Benicia, so we have the ideal town for such a structure.
- * Dear Council Members, please make efforts to make Pickleball courts available to Benicia residents. Right now there are no suitable outdoor courts. The Community Park skating rink is not an acceptable option. As surface, no nets and we have to kick skaters off their surface. This is one of America's fastest growing sports especially among those fifty and older. Thank you for your consideration.
- * Did you know that adults like swings and slides too? Just because we're paying taxes doesn't mean we don't still like to play. Personally I'm really unhappy that the community park slide is still closed. I had wanted to have friends join me on it for my 64th birthday. I haven't been back to James Lemos pool since the slide was closed. We don't all have small children; some of us are trying to honor the child within and Benicia makes that very difficult unless you are part of a select group who managed to sign up for bocce ball.
- * Dog park near Rancho Benicia on H St. We have a large number of dogs under 20 lbs
- * Each park should have a trash can, also, a bench and/or a picnic table. At the very least parks with playgrounds should have bathroom facilities available. Thanks for making input so accessible.
- * Expand existing Clocktower Park to include the vacant land on Officer's Row and rename it as Benicia Arsenal Park.
- * First, the parks department does a fine job managing so many wonderful amenities Benicia offers. Thanks for your work. You help to promote a pleasant community. One ask I would have is to further improve the offerings for basketball. The court at Waters End Park is the best full court in Benicia. I'd encourage us to improve that with tempered glass backboards/hoops. Many cities have done this already. In the last 3 years, Vallejo has added 4 full courts with tempered glass backboards and proper clay-like concrete. Secondly, but just as important, improving indoor basketball options is needed. There's a couple dozen of us 35+ that play regularly and struggle to find indoor opportunities. Pre-COVID, Thursdays open gym can sometimes have more than 40 people in the gym trying to play and many of us don't attend as we aren't willing to wait more than an hour to play. Fridays open gym for 30+ is generally more manageable but those days it's generally only half court. The nearly couple dozen of us 35+ (All Benicia residents) are competitive players and really would want more full court options indoor. Many us have played college level. Further GVRD closed their facility prior to COVID, and one needs to travel across the bridge to play full court indoor. Is it possible to partner with the school district to utilize their middle or high school gyms for some programming to improve options at the City Gym? Wendy's job is challenging to juggle all of the needs for the City Gym. Is it possible to add additional weekly time slots maybe for Benicia residents only? Any possible ways to improve indoor options would be greatly appreciated. I'd be glad to help brainstorm or add additional context if needed. Thanks again for the work you do!
- * Fix the dock at 9th st boat ramp. There used to be an "L" shaped dock(attached to the eastern finger of the dock. Sailboats could easy dock going upwind, drop sails, and move the boat into the main entryway to the ramp. This extension was lost in a storm years ago and never replaced. Adding a new finger that was lower would make the docking of sailboats and kayaks as well as small motorboats easier and safer.
- * Francesca Terrace Park My understanding is that the "red curb" in the parking lot (adjacent to the Armory), is not a valid Fire Lane. It was painted for unknown reasons, but has no signage and no white lettering to indicate its purpose. According to the police, citizens can park in this spot without consequence. I've seen city workers do it regularly, leading others to follow along. I believe this should be removed for a couple of reasons. First, it's either a Fire Lane or it's not. Period. Second, it's confusing for drivers who believe that they can "get away with" parking in a red zone on this occasion, and then they try it elsewhere in the city. Thank you.

- * Francesca Terrace Park The parking lot in front is not ADA compliant. It has a spot reserved for disabled parking, but there is no sign. More importantly, there is no ramp with which to transfer from the lot, up the curb step, and into to the park proper. If someone is injured during this process, they could sue the City for damages.
- * Francesca Terrace Park This park is big enough, and well utilized enough that it should have real working toilets with sinks. There is a drinking fountain, indicating that plumbing is available. It took me weeks to have the company replace the empty sanitizer in the portable bathrooms last years. Citizens should not be expected to come to their park and have no facilities to relieve themselves. Thank you.
- * The Benicia Arsenal Park Task Force (BAPTF) is a stakeholder group that represents residents advocating for a park in the historic Benicia Arsenal. We understand that the City formed focus groups to interview “stakeholders” for the Park Master Plan Update, and we wish to offer responses to two of the questions you posed in these focus groups. Question : What opportunities exist to improve the park system? BAPTF response: The East Side of Benicia needs more parkland. The Arsenal offers an opportunity for a beautiful new park that will both serve the community and be a destination for people interested in local, state, and national history. The existing 1997 Park Master Plan states: "Although the parks are well-distributed throughout the city, more parks are needed in the southeast portion of the older part of Benicia...." Since that time the Parks and Community Services Department has made minimal park improvements in this part of the city. Etherlee Saravia Park was built on Military East as a small (half-acre) pocket park. The need for parks in this portion of the city will increase further if more housing is developed there in response to state requirements for housing production and as proposed by the City's draft Eastern Gateway Study. The Arsenal offers an opportunity to serve the park needs of the East Side population. The City currently owns the Commanding Officers Quarters (COQ) and the Clocktower. The City could acquire adjacent undeveloped properties for park purposes. The area is currently used informally by people walking, riding bicycles, and walking dogs. There are impressive views of the Carquinez Strait from Jefferson Street, which is the heart of Officers’ Row in Arsenal Historic District C. A park here would provide an inspiring and restorative environment on the East Side that would also foster a deeper understanding of Benicia’s historic significance to California and the West. Because Arsenal Historic District C is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the City should also consider how additional parkland in the Arsenal could be developed to benefit this listing. At a minimum, acquiring these undeveloped parcels would preserve the landscape features that are essential to the District's historic integrity. New buildings on these parcels could result in the delisting of the District from the National Register. These undeveloped parcels potentially can be improved to benefit other historic assets in the Arsenal owned by the City (i.e. COQ, Clocktower, and Museum). The site has the potential to become a significant heritage tourism destination, as called for in the City’s economic development strategy and the recent inclusion of Benicia in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (<https://www.nps.gov/places/sacramento-san-joaquin-delta-national-heritage-area.htm>). Question : What would be your one wish for the Park Master Plan Update? BAPTF response: Develop a park in the Arsenal for use by the East Side population and to promote and preserve the historic integrity of the Arsenal.
- * Glad to see that the word is out for the need for dedicated Pickleball Courts in Benicia.
- * Hello, I'd like to suggest a splash pad at any of the parks and a replacement of the picnic table that was removed at Arneson Park. New picnic tables at Ninth Street Park would also be nice.
- * At the top of the court there are 3 families with 6 children all under the age of 11 (I also know there are several families living on W. Seaview Dr with young children). We love OverLook Park and utilize it constantly. We've all noticed that the play structure seems to be past it's prime. It would be wonderful if the OverLook Park structure were replaced or upgraded as a part of the new Benicia Parks Trails & Open Space Master Plan. Thanks very much for your time and have a wonderful day.

- * Hello, My wife, children and I are residents and frequent users of the Bay Trail particularly near West F. street and Semple Court. Like many others, we walk, jog, and bike on that portion of the trail very regularly. We have two requests. 1) Safety - the path portion of the Bay Trail there is quite uneven, goes from asphalt to gravel, back to asphalt and has many bumps. We've seen several people fall over the years while walking, jogging and biking. Many people utilize the street, Semple Court. Unfortunately, Semple Court is only marginally better than the path (our understanding is that the PCI of the street is 15). One request would be to properly asphalt that portion of the Bay Trail connecting West F to West G streets. We've previously shared our feedback on the street with City Engineering. To be clear, given the heavy utilization of the area, I think there's a material safety liability for the City due to the poor condition of the path and the poor condition of the Semple Court roadway. 2) Landscaping - over this past weekend, a very large tree was removed from the area. At the present moment, there is no ground cover or much that helps beautify the space. With the removal of the tree, the large and rusted concrete wall is now an eyesore for all those strolling by and for residents living on Semple Court. The request here would be to improve the landscaping along with doing something specific with the rusted concrete wall (maybe a plant/lattice or plants that can somehow cover that wall). Another possible idea is to partner with the Arts District to paint something there (maybe something related to the Bay Trail). Thank you for the work you do in keeping Benicia beautiful.

- * Hello. I am commenting about Duncan Graham Park. My husband and I, as well as all of our neighbors that live surrounding the park and play at it daily, we have a few liability concerns. The basketball court needs desperately needs to be fully redone. There is constant loose gravel and also the tree roots are growing under it, causing the court to lift with large cracks. All of our kids have taken nasty falls on the court, many times. This is our top priority. Other liability issues are all the old, janky wood around the basketball court, as well as the play structure. It's falling apart and always has nails coming out that we get a hammer and nail them back down for our kids' safety. Those are the main issues we all have and I hope they can be addressed and fixed ASAP so our kids don't keep getting injured due to lack of taking action to fix these issues. Also, while we're at it, we would love a swing set :)

- * Here are my priorities, not in any specific order. -more adult open basketball time -allow more full court open gym time for adults -have 'benicia residents only' time for adults -more open gym time for 30+ -add/partner with another gym -glass/clear upgraded backboards at parks -upgrade to all weather sports field(s) -more focus on youth sports and facilities. - indoor sports facility in the industrial park. Something like Mare Island had. This would be a big revenue driver for the city and a much needed outlet for our youth.

- * Here are some of my thoughts that we already spoke about: 1. Lines painted at BMS would be another addition, but not as a sole long-term solution. 2. Lines painted at Civic Center Park would be great in the interim. Lights are there, and no concern about noise. One court can be solely used for tennis. Other court, can serve both tennis and pickleball. Possible fit for 4 pickleball courts onto one tennis court. 3. Long term plan could be for the Benicia Community Park. Will have to include windblock, lights, parking, restrooms, water. 4. Pickleball players have or have access to portable nets, so do not paint lines to be used with the existing tennis nets. 5. Plans can be shown to pickleball players for input prior to construction.

- * Hi! I unfortunately missed last night's meeting and didn't know there was a survey that was available earlier this month. I would love to see an improvement at the roller hockey rink located between the skate park and dog park. I've seen many folks utilizing the rink for recreation lately and it could use a facelift! The plastic barriers are cracked and broken, the cement is rough in areas and the goals are looking sad (I don't use them so I can't truly speak on that) Roller skating has had a tremendous increase in popularity and I see that each time we are at the rink. I have yet to have the rink all to myself which is fantastic! I really hope the city will consider a facelift for the rink, it would be much appreciated by many skaters in town. Thank you!
- * Hi, I have a few suggestions for improvements at Bridgeview Park: address drainage issues along asphalt path through park and repave the path, resurface and paint basketball court, refurbish basketball hoops, add outdoor fitness equipment zone (spin, row, obstacles) adjacent to basketball court, plant natives on the slope and drainage ditch between the upper lawn and lower playground area. Thank you!
- * Hi. I am an avid pickleball player. My group is currently playing at an outside venue in Vallejo/Glenn Cove, because there are no outdoor pickleball sites available in Benicia. Are there any plans to provide outside courts in Benicia? We note that many other communities use tennis courts as pickleball courts. There are 4 tennis courts next to Benicia Library that are rarely used. Would Benicia consider adapting these courts into pickleball courts? We understand that a schedule may need to be implemented between the tennis and pickleball players, but I believe an amicable solution can be found. I just don't feel that a City that portrays itself as "loving parks" can disregard an entire sport without at least trying to implement a few, standard sized outdoor courts (especially on tennis courts already built. I understand there is pickleball offered INSIDE at the Community Center and the City Gym, but shouldn't a City like Benicia, with all its "charm, ...high quality of life, offering an abundance of leisure and recreational activities for ALL" offer access to the fastest growing sport in the Country? Thank you for your time.
- * I absolutely love the little beach at 9th street park. Any chance of opening up more little beach front spots? Or having a designated dog park area separated for small dogs vs. big dogs? I used to go to a park in Danville that had something like that. The big dogs were too dangerous for my Chihuahua, so it was great to have separated areas for the big and small dogs. Thanks!
- * I am a 74-year-old resident of Benicia and I would like to request that the parks committee consider paving the road that goes to the skate park and the dog park in community Park. During winter that dirt road is impassable many times and it forces me to walk a long distance from the paved parking lot to the dog park for my dog to get exercise. Additionally during late spring summer and the fall when the winds are blowing a lot of dust and dirt from those unpaved areas blows into areas where kids are playing and congregating there by exposing them to dust and pollen potentially pollen etc.
- * I am an avid Pickleball player. My family and I would love to have more Pickleball courts here.
- * I am very concerned about access to our waterfront areas throughout Benicia. In my neighborhood alone, there are several areas along the waterfront where the public access is being reduced/eliminated. For example - there is a stairway at the end of John's place that has been closed with no update for reopening. The staircase to shell beach (on Cove Way) is falling apart and becoming impassable. The open space area at Bordoni park (West 6th and I street) is being overgrown with invasive plants, and access to the beach is sloped, uneven and dangerous. Is there a commitment to keep these access points open and to maintain them so the public can continue to access our beautiful shoreline?
- * I attended the call last Thursday and would like to thank you for your efforts seeking input into the new master plan. I am hoping for the inclusion of pickleball courts in the park system. One possibility is at Jack London park you could reorient the basketball court width ways, which would allow room for 2 pickleball courts. The space for the current basketball court is full sized and then some with wide sidelines. I think the space could be used better. Thanks for your consideration.

- * I attended the Zoom meeting 4/20/22 and found it very informative. Even though the community surveys put pickleball in the middle of the priority list, the chart showing anticipated growth in demand had pickleball as one of the largest growth activities, and I was pleased adding pickleball courts was on the list from the recent City Council meeting discussion. I'm hopeful adding outdoor courts will be on the 0-3 year target list, but whenever it's put into place, please make sure the location chosen has adequate protection from wind, either from topography (similar to Glen Cove Park in Vallejo) or from plantings and wind screens. Community Park has space and parking, but is too windy. If a place could be found to build tennis courts elsewhere, the current two tennis courts could be converted to six pickleball courts. This location would be ideal for many reasons. It's wind protected, there is a nearby bathroom and plenty of parking options, and pickleball players will spend more time frequenting downtown businesses before/after playing than if the courts were built elsewhere. If a reciprocal arrangement could be worked out with the school district to allow tennis players to use the courts at the middle and high school, that would also increase tennis access in town -- especially if it could happen while the current city tennis courts are being converted to pickleball. I hope you'll consider this option.
- * I attended your 4/28 Community Mtg. You polled participants by asking what are our 3 most interested areas for focus. Perhaps asking us for a ranking as to what is most important, then second and third most important would have indicated our actual selections better. Although focus on the trails came up with 73-80% of us including that in our polls, I'm not sure trails would be a primary focus, whereas it may have been a second or third choice. Given the relative ease of it not needing much structural build surrounding them, as a participant it seemed fair enough to just include it in the poll selection.
- * I have been a resident of Benicia for the past 35 years and have enjoyed the small town atmosphere, outdoor amenities and all things Benicia has to offer. The City of Benicia has done an excellent job developing the city into a very beautiful place to live and raise children. During the years I have lived in Benicia I have observed an increase in the number of people exercising outdoors (walking, jogging, hiking, biking) in neighborhoods and in the surrounding open space. Now more than ever our community needs safe ways to enjoy our open space through trail development which would subsequently enhance the lives of neighborhood residents as well as the community as a whole. Additionally, strategic planting of native trees would benefit our open space in a multitude of ways for residents and environment. One of the open space areas I would be interested in seeing improved is located between Hastings Drive and Rose Drive. There is an outlet at the end of Windsor Drive that feeds into this open space. From the Windsor drive outlet, there is a frequently used trail that leads down a steep hillside and onto a flat graded open space area which connects to other trails. This hillside trail is very difficult to walk down without slipping and the potential of falling even with proper trail shoes. It would be very useful to create switchbacks down the hill making it a much safer and user-friendly trail. Switchbacks would be useful on other hills in Benicia's open space where trails have been established but are difficult to use because of the steep incline or narrowness of the trails. I was happy to hear the City of Benicia is currently working on updating the Master plan for open space and would enjoy being involved in any aspect of planning that is appropriate for public participation. Please feel free to contact me with any information you have in regard to trail and open space development.

- * I have been playing pickleball for the past three years and have found that the only decent outdoor courts are in Vallejo (Glen Cove, Amador, Castlewood). Benicia's indoor courts at the Community Center (one court) and at the Gymnasium (3 courts) have been closed for over a year. There is space for additional outdoor courts at the hockey rink at the Community Park, but the wind is wicked up there and it makes playing pickleball almost impossible because the balls get blown off the court. When I go to play at the Castlewood courts in Vallejo (taking the Glen Cove exit and going right) I can see a HUGE field in Vallejo that appears to be an abandoned sports field, with an old baseball diamond and fences. Since most of the Benicia pickleball players are playing in Glen Cove now, perhaps we could co-sponsor a new pickleball project with Vallejo. They certainly know how to build gorgeous pickleball courts.
- * I have concerns about the lack of landscaping management along Rose Drive from Hastings to the end of the pathway at McAllister Dr. There are so many plants that have died and then just cut back. As a 30 year resident (original owner) this is very disappointing and actually an eyesore. The walking path on Rose Drive has been a great place for residents and visitors to safely walk and enjoy the neighborhood. I have pictures of some of the areas from many years ago and over time that show a very different view of what this area looked like. What has happened to the plan that was in place and the extra tax amount that was assessed to the homeowners in this area for 25 years? I would be happy to share my photos. There is also a problem with the pavement on Rose Drive from Hastings to Panorama. In the 30 years that we have lived here, this section of Rose Drive has never been resurfaced that I can recall, while other, newer streets have been. Is there a plan to do this?
- * I have lived in Benicia for 40 years. Raised my kids here. Live in Bridgeview. Right up the street from the park on Lori. My boys use to have such a fun time at the park. I see many families moving in with small kids. While Bridge park is great why no swings for the kids? I see them in other parks. Families are really starting to use the park. We take our grandson up there and no swings for him to have on. There is plenty of room. Kids need swings. We all grew up with them. Speaking also for other parents please put a few little and a few bigger ones for the four year olds. Thank you.
- * I have lived in Bridgeview neighborhood for over 40 years. My children had a great park to play in. Lots of older people have moved out of our area. Young families are moving in I see strollers all over. Bridgeview park is shabby. No swing for the kids. The play structure is so so. Look around at the other parks and see the difference. The parks and rec. really needs to spruce it up. Bring in and remove old things. It is so boring for the kids. Get too hot at times as there is no cover over some of the play equipment. Benicia is a lovely town. But why do they neglect Bridgeview area? Thank you for listening.
- * I hope Benicia will put in a pickleball park. Pickleball has become a popular activity for many ages. Public courts in cities all over Contra Costa are very busy morning afternoon and evenings (if there are lights).
- * I hope that Benicia creates some dedicated pickleball courts.
- * I hope the City will take into consideration the potential negative impacts that changes will have on the homeowners who surround and border the public parks. I've lived here since 1995 with Francesca Terrace Park over my back fence. I really hope that there won't be any attractions or equipment added to our neighborhood park. I would be happy to talk to someone if they have any questions. Thank you!
- * I love all of the parks in Benicia, and I'm an avid walker/hiker. I live across the street from Gateway Park, and my only complaint is that the leaves accumulate in the park and largely end up in my yard and gutter. When I email the Parks department, I get a rather rude email back that essentially says they don't have time. They usually clean them up soon after my emails. My suggestion is to plant evergreen trees instead of deciduous trees to minimize this problem.
- * I love Benicia's parks and open spaces. I'm very biased about this, but I hope any future plan preserves and/or expands fishing access and nice little extras like benches and rod holders out by the water!

- * I love the Bridgeview Park. We take out young grandson there. We meet many new young families. They wonder why no big or baby swings? All the other parks have them. They are not a danger to children. Please put them in. They have like a rock cliff thing and never see a child on it. We want swings. PLEASE.
- * I noticed in next door website there are many dog walkers that don't pick up their dog's Poop. Perhaps if there were signs posted in common areas or along first street that they could be fined. ☹
- * I suggest CPTED strategies: low mature vegetation to increase sightlines (in lieu of continual maintenance to reduce vegetation to not exceed 24-inches above grade), activity generators along paths (art, workout stations, info plaques) so that pedestrians "pause and smell the roses" as they are aware of their surroundings and not focused on their electronics, and strategic placed benches (where trusted adults look at playgrounds and their parked vehicles or approaching paths) to deter and detect criminal activity.
- * I think it would be great to have a trail that circles the entire distance around lake Herman so folks can hike and/bike from the city park above down, around and back with wider spots along the way to encourage fishing opportunities for catch and release of planted and "native" fish and rest points with benches at nice observation locations along the way.
- * I think it would be great to see a bandshell in Benicia for live outdoor performances!
- * I think the variety and availability and cleanliness of Benicia parks should be a model for the world! I'm so proud to live in Benicia, and the parks are a big part of that pride. Just keep up the excellent work!
- * I want herbicide to be removed from city playgrounds/parks. At minimum, I want a sign up saying that it is being sprayed, AND I want a public schedule made available of where and when it is being sprayed. Today herbicide was being sprayed at Francesca park, and had I not seen the truck, my kids could've very well played in the herbicide thinking it was just sprinkler water. This is not acceptable.
- * I wanted express my interest in creating Pickleball courts in the city of Benicia. I'm a long time resident of Benicia

and have seen the sport of Pickleball explode in popularity over the years. I am also a certified Pickleball coach and very involved in the community. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the world because it is fairly easy for anyone to pick up a paddle and play. My father is 73 years old and plays Pickleball 3 times a week in Concord. He walks and talks like someone who is much younger because of how active he is. This sport allows all walks of life to have fun, get good exercise, and create lasting friendships. These three things I mention are all necessary in promoting a healthy lifestyle that we need now more than ever. Benicia is rapidly changing and why not bring courts to our city? The closest courts we have now are in Vallejo and Glen Cove. Each of these locations hold only two courts and have multiple tennis courts. Vallejo's courts, in my opinion, aren't very good. The surfacing is outdated, loud echoes when hitting the balls, and no separation between the tennis courts and Pickleball courts. Now Glen Cove on the other hand has two very nice courts, but it's not enough. The courts are filled all the time where people have to wait to play, whereas the four tennis courts they have barely get used. I'm currently 33 years old and have been playing Pickleball competitively for 5 years now. I got started in Benicia. When the city gym would have open play weeknights I would go and play. When I started out there was a solid group of people that would consistently go out and play. I then progressed my play to the hockey court at community park where there was once again a lot of people wanting to play. I don't play at either of these locations now because there are much better places to play, such as Willow Pass community park in Concord and Rudgear park in Walnut Creek. I don't think twice about crossing the bridge to go play because I love playing and so do the residents of Benicia that make the same commute I do. I don't want to make this commute anymore. There is a need for Pickleball in Benicia that needs to be fulfilled. I've never reached out to the city before to try and get anything done, and now is the time. Bringing Pickleball to Benicia is a win-win situation. It will help support businesses by attracting new customers and also promote a healthy outlet for residents to get exercise and create new friendships. Benicia already is a beautiful city with great restaurants and businesses. But are we going to stop there? I would like this topic to be discussed at the master plan meeting 2/15/22. I will be on the zoom call as well.

- * I wanted to let you know of my desire to see dedicated pickleball courts with lights added to Benicia's master plan. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation and the growth in Benicia and Vallejo is huge! The two dedicated courts in Vallejo (at Glen Cove) are almost always in use with people waiting to play. Benicia will benefit financially from providing pickleball courts as it will attract players from all over Solano and neighboring counties who shop and eat before and after playing. I hope Benicia stays current with the recreational needs of its residents and provides a dedicated facility that allows for daytime and evening play. Thank you for your attention to this matter!
- * I was on one of the webinars and really appreciated the discussion. We are in our mid 30s with kids and noticed how the average age is expected to increase more and more, to 43, and kids are decreasing proportionately. I worry that future city planning will only cater to the aging demographic, essentially cementing that trend. What can be done to draw in 20 and 30 year olds, rather than them view it as a "retirement community." I say that in quotes to emphasize I'm not being derogatory :). Thanks!
- * I would dearly love more places to launch and store kayaks and stand up paddle boards (SUPs). I really miss the slide at the pool too! As an adult I love being able to play to get exercise...slides, swings, etc that allow adults. Thank you!

- * I would like to know if that parks and recreation department would please consider funding a handrail and shallow steps (maybe only 2 feet wide) to lead down to the beach area at the 9th street water location.
I am a senior and would like to go to the waterfront there with my grandchild and family but I am afraid to walk down the gravelly steep grade to the beach area. I walk past it on the above walkway and look down with a desire to be there several days a week. perhaps I am not the only senior who desires to go to the beach there. Perhaps other persons with the fear of falling, wish they could enjoy that area too.
Does this seem possible to you?
If the stairs were narrow, it could be less expense and wagons with beach items could still be pulled down the side without stairs.
But even just a gripe handrail would be of some help.
I am hopeful for the future.
- * I would like to see a paved area where cars now park on dirt on First Street at the waterfront park.
- * I would like to see an off-leash trail for dogs. Also, we very much need additional tennis courts. 2 tennis courts for a city of 30,000 is simply no enough. Thank you.
- * I would like to see more Community Gardens.
- * I would like to see more opportunities to play basketball. Basketball is the one sport in our town that creates a diverse environment and invites a wide age range to play. I'm sure there can be a way that if we present some kind of Co-Vid passport that we could play in the gym again also. If the CDC says that vaccinated individuals can be in small groups indoors, then I'm sure we could find a way to return.
- * I would like to see the city have a dedicated park for pickle ball play. It should be somewhere where wind is not too much of a factor. There should be restrooms, tables and benches and permanent courts (not portable nets).
- * I would like to see the open space (all) kept as a walking, hiking and bicycle path only. We always use the trails and it seems lately motorized vehicles (dirt bike type motorcycles, small regular motorcycles) are using the trails. My husband and I had a frightening experience after asking a family riding motorcycles (near out house) to stay off the trails. We said it was a fire hazard among other things and the gentleman became hostile. Signs need to be made clearer and posted. This man's son was off the trail completely. We have also seen dumping on the open space and wonder who to call. Whatever can be done to keep open space open, and safe for wildlife and people would be appreciated. Thank you
- * I would love for there to be turf fields where the kids can play sports year round. In the winter the fields are too wet and uneven to play on, and the kids are unable to practice or play games at all. Also putting up more lights in the fields so they can play even when getting dark would allow for more play/practice time and be much safer for everyone. Also more trails would be wonderful. Thank you
- * I would love some pickleball courts in an area that is in proximity of bathrooms and low wind.
- * I would love to see a small-dog park that is more flat and has some grass, maybe something to interest the small dogs. The present park, completely bare, in the sun, and extremely steep, is not inviting at all. It seems like another location would be better. The present one looks like an after-thought for the facility for larger dogs next door.
- * I would love to see permanent outdoor pickleball courts built here in Benicia. We have a large population of players here in Benicia that drive to Vallejo, Concord, or Walnut Creek to play outdoor pickleball. The Community Park is not a good option due to wind there. Pickleballs are light-weight wiffle-like balls that don't play well in windy conditions. Discovery Bay, Vallejo, Concord have all built permanent courts. Martinez has painted pickleball lines on two adjacent tennis courts. This allows for 4 pickleball courts, using temporary nets. These are lighted courts for evening play. Signs are posted outside of the courts designating specific days and times that tennis players have priority vs. pickleball play priority.

- * I would love to see some outdoor pickleball courts in downtown Benicia someplace - someplace where it doesn't get windy. I currently have to go to Vallejo to play on their beautiful courts, but they are starting to get more and more crowded and more people are vaccinated. We need more courts in town for the #1 fastest growing sport in the US!
- * I'm not sure if this is part of the "parks" dept. but it would be nice if the trails along the waterfront could be extended to cover as much area as possible without interfering with the privacy of the property owners. Specifically, the area behind the metal scrap business. One long waterfront trail would greatly enhance the Benicia downtown & waterfront area
- * I'd love to see a bandshell in Benicia for live outdoor performances!
- * I'd really appreciate the "hockey" rink getting more attention. There are many cracks that are growing in severity. Many roller skaters/rollerbladers have been using this rink for learning how to skate and the cracks are definitely an obstacle.
- * If the Open Spaces are truly a concern then I think you should reconsider rezoning them which would open them up to proposals for development. Please leave them alone as true Open Space. Wildlife is being squeezed out of their homes by development already. Don't make it worse.
- * I'm interested in seeing an expansion of multi-use trails in all open space areas, specifically incorporating switch backs that will make it easier to walk or bike up the steep inclines.
- * I'm interested in seeing if one of our parks can include an exercise park with equipment suitable for adults. During the pandemic we found a great one in American Canyon. It was a good way to exercise outdoors instead of at a gym. We've also seen versions when we've traveled out of the U.S. As an occupational therapist I know the importance of movement for all ages so this is of great interest for me.
- * Interested and having dedicated Picklball courts in a Benicia Park. Prefer a less windy area such as Southampton Park at Panorama and Chelsea Hills Dr
- * It would be great if some the docks could be restored like near arneson park. Maybe offer kayak rentals. Or a place to jump off into the water. Expanding some of the beaches (import sand high quality sand) would give more space to lounge and play with kids in the nice summer days. Boat rentals, and a designated swimming area, where you don't have to worry about broken glass would be great.
- * It would be great if the City can prioritize and allocate more money/resources for sport field maintenance, specifically more mowing of the grass where youth sports take place.
- * It would be great to have a location in Benicia for live outdoor performances - great for community building and local businesses!
- * It would be nice to have a few more public tennis courts somewhere. 2 is not enough. Especially since the middle school and the high school seem to be off limits now. Thanks.
- * I've commented in the past about needing a small park and/or playground near the middle school, so I always like to reiterate that. But this weekend we went to Cordelia Community Park just up 680, and it was a great playground with so many modern climbing and balancing options. It was split in half between older and younger kids. Please use that as an example. Not your typical cookie cutter playground.
- * Jack London Park is missing a basketball hoop. Please replace the hoop. Thx Also I agree that there are too many dogs off leash and some of these dogs are running up to small children (and adults) startling them and it's only a matter of time until someone is knocked down and hurt.
- * Lots of people are learning to rollerskate and use of the skate rink has increased. However, there are a lot of cracks in it now. Re-paving the skating rink is one quick and easy fix that would benefit lots of people.
- * More adult open basketball time by -allow more full court open gym time for adults -have 'benicia residents only' time for adults -more open gym time for 30+ -add/partner with another gym -glass/clear upgraded backboards at parks

- * More details of local parks (neighborhood) locations .Walking paths, access to shoreline etc. Clarify and expand information.
- * My concern is public access to shore lines and open space.
- * I'm writing in regards to the open field area next to the skate park; next to hole 9 of the disk golf course. The open area is a good opportunity to add an RC track or BMX type track similar to William Payne sports park in Livermore. I've seen many RC hobbyists bring their cars to the community park but they have to walk deep into the hills to run their vehicles. That open area is big enough to accommodate a jumping track and still provide enough room for the disk golfers. Using that space would also minimize the need for weed and foliage management.
- * My proposition is to build a pump track. A pump track is a series of rollers and berms designed for pumping and gaining speed. A pump track can be used by almost anything with wheels, bikes, rollerblades, skateboards, scooters, etc. And can be used by all ages. A pump track can be made out of dirt, concrete and asphalt. Dirt has to be maintained, and closed in weather. A concrete or asphalt pump track is more expensive and will last a really long time without much maintenance. And they are becoming really popular all over the world. And the big one, there is not a pump track *anywhere near Benicia or many at all near the bay area* . It would attract people from all over the bay to enjoy themselves in our town. Anyone of any age can use one of these and is a great way to build skills. We already have an amazing skate park in Benicia, but the people there are not really cool. There are older kids who smoke and cuss and cause trouble. Especially when all of the little kids are there to play. A pump track will give these kids a bigger, easier, safer, cleaner, and more fun way to get outside on their bikes, skateboards, etc. I know that there is a very, very slim chance that this will happen and there are so many factors that go into this, money, location, construction, permits, etc. But I just wanted to plop the idea into someone's head.
- * Pickle Ball US Open was shown live on CBS Sports this weekend for the first time. Pickle Ball pro players are sponsored by paddle companies, including Franklin Sports. PB Pro Callie Smith was signed by Nike! The best time to invest in a sport is when it is growing, with momentum from widespread community enthusiasm and pros who are making themselves known and seen in the sports world. Here is the link to the Live broadcast on CBS.
<https://youtu.be/sTL759-jrBU>
- * Pickleball has become a very popular sport. I would like to see the at least four courts out doors built in an area that is sheltered as possible. Playing in the hockey rink does not work well and the rink is being used often. If the courts were to be built next to the skate park it would need tall fencing with a wind brake installed on the fence. Thank you for your consideration
- * Pickleball is in the news and is definitely in all our cities. For their communities, Martinez has added PB to tennis courts, Concord has huge facilities to hold National Tournaments, Vallejo made PB courts and striped lines, American Canyon converted tennis court, Napa striped lines, Yountville converted courts, Vacaville striping lines at all their sites. #fastestgrowingsport. Link to recent CNBC news clip about the growth of Pickleball.
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=783212439001651>
- * Pickleball Courts! I'm a senior citizen living in Benicia and have to drive out of town to play pickleball. They don't require much space. Four courts can fit in one tennis court. I just can't believe nothing has been done yet. At my age, I can't wait forever. so please make it a priority.
- * Play areas for older elementary kids are needed. Climbing walls and structures, better game fields for soccer and baseball & softball would be great too.
- * Please consider completeing the trail past the sewer plant along the waterfront to couple up with the bridge trail.

- * Please consider paving the path in Bridgeview park. Also the basketball court is in complete disrepair. This park has an incredible view, but no benches or ways to enjoy it comfortably. A bathroom would also be lovely. We're just simply some picnic tables. Anything that can be done to help and acknowledge the beauty of this park would make our town more exceptional.
- * please create kayak and SUP storage rentals somewhere at 9th st park or the marina!!! So many people would like to utilize the water without always hauling small watercraft to and from. Please also consider adding back the baby swings at the downtown wooden park. And lastly, it would be spectacular to have a pump track or bmx course up at lake Herman or elsewhere. Thanks for helping to make our town such a wonderful place to live and play in!
- * Please improve trails. Improve St. Paul's park to be heart of the city art park. Focus trails for views
- * Please put in pickle ball courts!
- * Please put lights into the skatepark. The baseball do we kids all have lights. The kids at the skatepark should be able to use it after dark as well. Look at Napa skatepark they are open till 10pm and have lights. It's such a great atmosphere there on those hot fall days when the sun set already.
- * Please resurface and/or fix the cracks in the Hockey track that's next to the skate park at benicia community park...I skate there often and it has really helped me and my family get through the pandemic... But I noticed the track is increasingly cracking and there's more rocks. It's a wonderful place to skate, please fix it up! Thank you!
- * Please, create, and connect, more walking/hiking paths throughout the open space.
- * Pre-covid, I would attend open gym for adult basketball at the Benicia city gym. Although I love going, I wish there were more time slots available, so I can attend several times per week. Additionally, when I do go, it becomes very crowded, perhaps there could be specific slots for Benicia residents only to keep it from overflowing. I am kindly requesting the city of Benicia to open up more open gym times for adult basketball. Thank you!
- * Since I first sent in comments a while ago, I've been thinking more about how best to offer more outdoor pickleball and tennis (and perhaps basketball) opportunities. It's possible to find a few spots for 1-2 pickleball courts around
- * Thank you for the recent informative and inspiring orientation about the parks of Benicia. I am an artist that lives in Benicia and am interested in participating in the process. I have done several public art and creative parks projects mostly in the Denver area. Many of these projects are designed around creative lateral play and designed with particular attention to ADA requirements. I would like to be involved with you and the city of Benicia in the development of some creative ideas for the future of our parks. Here are some images from some of my projects.
- * Thanks for your message I just wanted to say that I think the city park the wooden park is because it really needs a lot of maintenance I can see kids getting hurt on there with all the splinters just to let you know but we do love that park and do appreciate the fact that the people spent their time to put that together thank you.

- * Thanks very much for scheduling the upcoming virtual forums on the Benicia Parks, Trails, Open Space Master Plan update. The emails regarding these events solicited questions. Here are a couple: 1. As both a fundraising and amenity-providing initiative, the East Bay Regional Parks District has erected dozens of memorial benches in its open spaces and parks. They are commissioned by individuals and include small plaques dedicated to (often departed) loved ones. People pay (I believe \$2,500, though that could be dated information) for the erection and dedication of the benches at pleasant spots at which to sit, often with nice views. Is there any chance Benicia could adopt (or expand) something like this, both to provide this amenity and to help supplement its parks budget? Here's a link describing the bench and related memorial/arts program: <https://www.ebparks.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=26874>. 2. Right now there's a pleasant path that starts at Benicia Community Park and circles part-way around Lake Herman, where it ends. Is there any way to build a continuation of the path so that it forms a loop ending back at the Community Park? Thanks for considering these matters.
- * The City must reevaluate its no replanting in open space policy. If they remove, for example, 27 trees, they should be required to replant some if there is direct impact on the homeowners that surround that property. OR, they should be willing to make an exception for a homeowner who is willing to donate trees to replace the trees that have been removed.
- * The park on 12th street is unusable due to goose poop that is EVERYWHERE.
- * The Willis Linn Jepson Chapter of the California Native Plant Society represents members of the Society residing in Solano County. Some of our members participated in the April 20th workshop on the Parks, Trails and Open Space
- * There are parks in Benicia that are asphalt paved and many that are paved with cement. The use of cement is far superior and not as prone to degradation. I would strongly support replacing the asphalt with cement.
- * There is an old fire road going from McAllister Drive to West Channel Road. At the West Channel Road end is a gate that blocks access to West Channel Road. There is a hole in a nearby fence, but it would be nice if there was an official opening for access to Channel Rd.
- * Trail signage with length and elevation gain. Enforcement of leash laws (our leashed dog was attacked by an unleashed dog at a nearby park path. The owner got a ticket after the fact that we reported them to the police, but the damage to my dog was extensive not to mention traumatic to my daughter to witness.) Upgrade irrigation. Public shouldn't need to notify department of geysers spouting water in the parks. I get a notification at home...doesn't the city? Overhead shade in common gathering areas where trees cannot be planted. Pave the section of Community Park out to the skate park and dog parks and make decent parking...or just plain block off the access!
- * We already experience this in our personal life with young children, but the presented map shows it clearly: There is a major park dead zone near Southampton and the middle school. Even one grass area and a small playground would be amazing in that area.
- * We could improve the bathroom situation in all of the parks especially the big slide park. The big slide park I think needs more than 1 bathroom location. If we can maintain it clean and we'll stocked with necessary supplies. Water fountains need updating. If we can create more shaded areas, that would be very nice. Downtown by the water needs more bathroom access as well and more picnic tables with shades. Families can picnic and enjoy the water views. Water Ends park desperately needs shaded areas. Strict rules on owners leaving their dog poop in the park. There should be a hefty fine if you are caught without picking up your dog poop while walking your dog. This can help increase community budget but the point is not that.
- * We definitely need more soccer/soccer specific fields. Our current parks used for practicing and games are substandard for the game of soccer. Please consider more rectangular fields or artificial turf to play on.

- * We need a fenced offleash dog park south of 780. The one in the Benicia Community Park is located on the northern edge of the City and is not readily accessible to much of the community, except by car. I use the Vallejo dog park at Wardlaw and meet many Benicians there. This park serves people with limited mobility and is used by many elderly and mobility limited people. The community center at 6th Street has extensive grounds and could easily include a fenced dog park. Provide a more accessible offleash dog park!
- * We need dedicated pickleball courts, with lights. Not just a few but a lot. So many Benecia and Vallejo residents are going to Concord and Walnut Creek where there are dedicated courts with lights.
- * We need more indoor and outdoor pickleball facilities, both to meet the needs of those who seek recreational play (many of them seniors, and some on fixed incomes where low-cost or free options are essential) and competitive
- * We need more outdoor pickleball courts and away from or protected from significant breezes.
- * We need shade and better lighting on the bocce ball courts
- * WE need to make the parks and trails more accessible to the elderly. 9th Street walk to the beach should have a railing, the trail at Channing Circle park that leads to the ridgetop needs to be redone so it is not so steep. We need a pickelball court and more bocce ball courts. The Duncam Graham Park needs a swing set. some of the other equipement there could be removed. The playground there could be bigger. 9th Street needs some shade trees by the playground and picnic tables. There is no shade when it's hot. All in all though the parks are great.
- * We urge you to approve the funds needed to renew the play structure in Ethelree Saraiva Park. This small gem is well used and highly prized by the families who live in the area. This is the only park we have in this quadrant of town, and with additional housing planned for our area, maintaining the park should be a prime concern.
- * We would like a splash pad and upset we did not receive a survey to provide our input on the future of parks in Benicia.
- * We'd like to see the parks plan include outdoor pickleball courts. There is no place to play outdoors in Benicia. Community Park shared facility with roller blade hockey rink and manual erected nets is insufficient. Right now my wife and I rely on the generosity of Vallejo/Glen Cove in order to play.
- * We'd love an upgrade to Overlook Park on Seaview Drive + Olive Branch Court. Our kids love to play there + would benefit from new equipment. Thank you!
- * When Channing Circle Park was landscaped in 1991 the place looked very nice. Over the years and especially during the four drought years of 2012-2016 much of the landscaping was allowed to die. In its place grew a few live oak trees which now dominate the perimeter. Unfortunately these trees block the view of park goers and presents some risk to people visiting as the leaves have sharp edges. For us at least one tree posses a fire hazard. I would hope that the Parks and Recreation could replant some of the space with drought tolerant bushes and plants. And, instead of bare earth in other places could you consider placing wood chips or other ground covering that makes the place look better? - One consideration I heard about was to add picnic benches and BBQs. I would strongly advise against BBQs as we often have high winds and the fire danger is high with the grass around the park. If picnic benches are to be added I would appreciate it not being in the lower grassy area as people often use the grass for watching the view and the benches I feel would detract from the beauty of the park. - Another consideration I heard was to add a restroom. When the park was built Mike Alvarez was very clear that a neighborhood park should not have restrooms as if someone had to go they live close and could go home for this. The park also has an ATT fiber optic cable Right of Way through the park which would provide a challenge to negotiate with ATT and install across the Right of Way for plumbing. A restroom would also attract people longer term to the area which is not the purpose and design of a neighborhood park.

- * Why no bathrooms in the bottom of First street? First Street and the parks and open space along 1st Street have 2 bathrooms. One in the First Street Park and another on the fishing pier. As a business and property owner we are continually asked by passers by to use our bathroom facilities. It has been going on for years and years, we pay the water and sewer bills, maintain the place and are viewed as unfriendly if we do not allow folks to use the facilities. Benicia has the land, has the funds, but does not have the will to provide “public” services. Why is that? Benicia closed the local skating park next to the Taco Bell and removed the skating areas and moved them to Community Park clearly thumbing the nose at residents near the 7th Street Park. That parks usage has fallen to nearly non-use as evident by driving past on almost a daily basis. How are kids supposed to get to Community Park from downtown?
- * Would love for City of Benicia to consider building some Pickelball courts. As of now we have to either go to Vallejo or Concord, or other surrounding areas. Thank You fir your consideration.
- * Would love to see some outdoor pickleball courts in Benicia parks which can be used by all ages.
- * Would love to see the outdoor skating rink taken better care of. People come from all over the county to skate here