

# Land Use in Santa Rosa





# Existing Conditions

It is benefiting the animals and people; The unused land reduces stormwater runoff and air pollution, improving human health. It does not benefit the people who want to industrialize the land and keep expanding city life along unused land.

The city of Santa Rosa has 70 parks totaling over 700 acres.



## Challenge/Topic

Challenge: What to do with the unused land around Santa Rosa

We have decided to choose different pieces of land around Santa Rosa that will be perfect fits for becoming natural parks, to preserve the natural beauty of the land that people want to still see, but still use the land so it is not sitting vacant.



# Existing Conditions

A majority of people want unused land to keep it safe for the animals. The biggest challenge that we face is finding a way to use land to its fullest potential, while pleasing the community that lives on the land as well as trying not to push the wildlife out of their homes. There are many factors that we have to consider while deciding what to do with the land.



# Case Studies



- Petaluma River Park- A plan to make the unused land into a park on the McNear Peninsula that is along the Petaluma River
- Solution that the organization has is to use the land and turn it into a park
- This is relevant because we are working on land use and we are planning on keeping land natural by turning it into parks



# Case Studies

## Annadel State Park

- The challenge was being able to preserve the land and also making it useful to people. The solution was creating it into a natural park with walking trails and keeping the animal life.
- This is relevant to our challenge because people of the community wanted to find a way to take a huge piece of unused land in Sonoma County and turn it into a natural park.





## Lesson Learned

- We learned that working on deciding what to do with land is not as easy as it sounds
- We have been given a better understanding about what the people that are a part of the General Plan are doing and how they do it
- We have gained much respect for the people working on the General Plan





## Short Term

Our strategy in the next year would be to find land that we can make sure we can keep natural and make sure that we would be able to conserve the land so we would be able to use it in the future to create parks.

In order to do this we will need to have funds, influence with the people in charge to make changes to land and enable us to be able to build there.





## Long Term

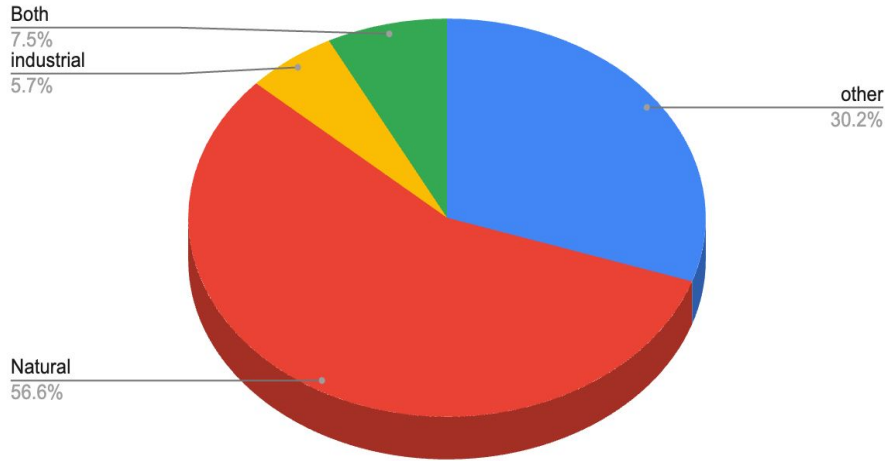
In the next 10 years our strategy remains very similar, but there would be more information gathered and more thoughts going into the decisions that we make.

Partner: Land Trust Alliance

Roles: There would be many people involved in many different roles across the entire project, some of those roles being community engagement specialists, to fundraiser specialists, all the way to parks and conservation specialists to ensure that we have a well rounded team working on the projects



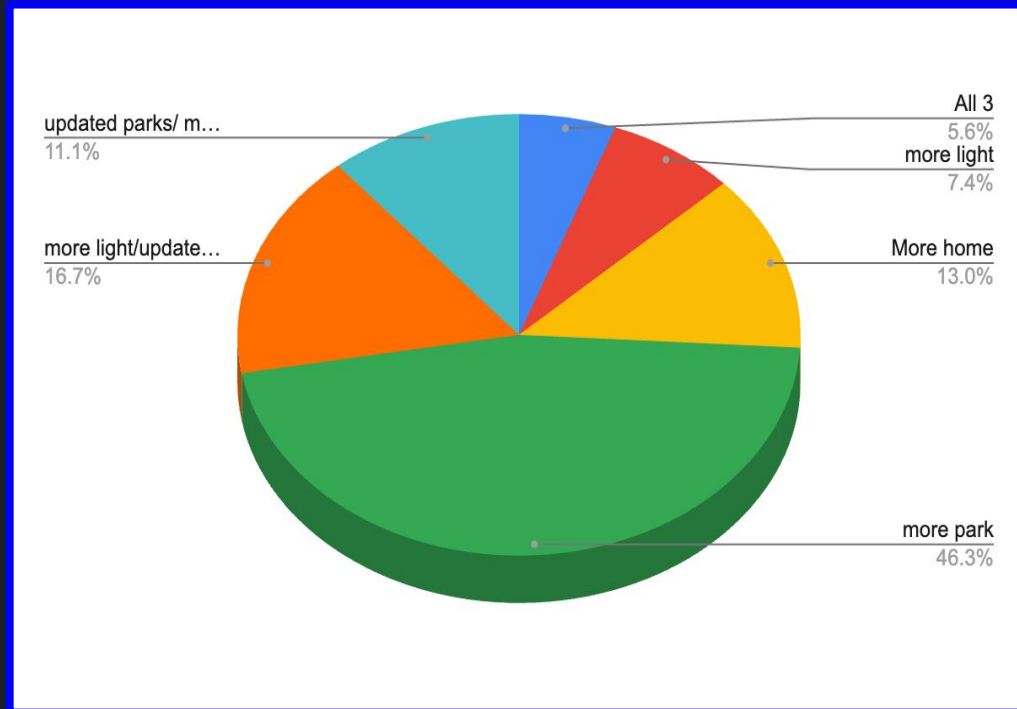
Do you want to Industrialize or have a natural feeling to the community?



Best response:

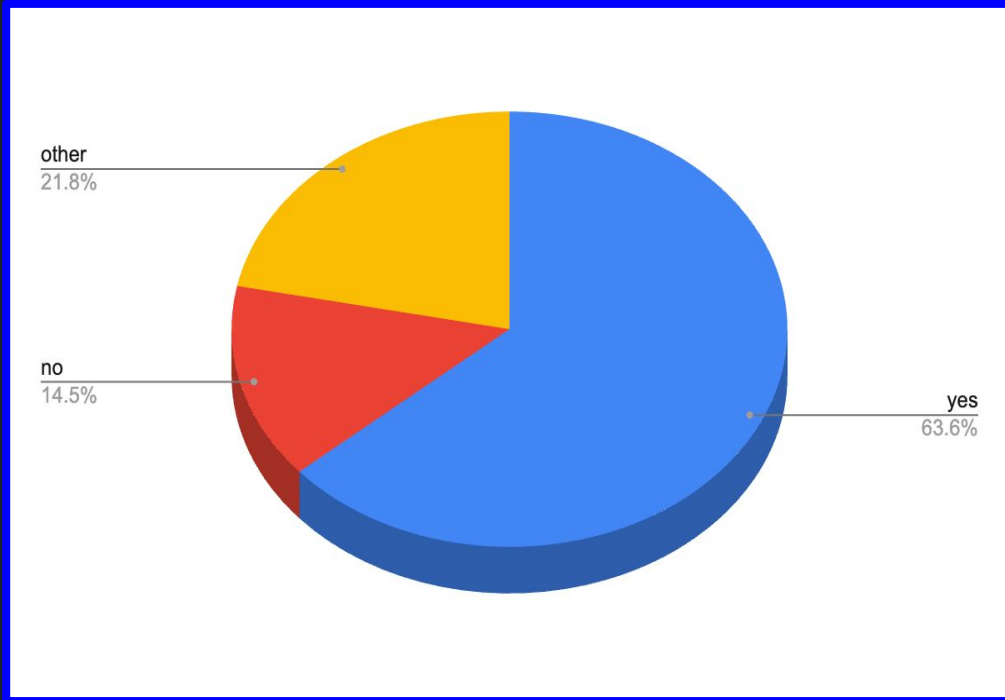
“Of course the land use in our area needs to have a certain amount of industrial, retail, and housing. Keeping even industrial parts of the city having a rural feel is nearly impossible, but there are definitely benefits to having greenery in industrial parts of town, including the fact that certain plants and trees can help scrub the toxins out of the environment, and contribute to lowering temperatures. Living in a bucolic country setting is nice, but it is not particularly conducive to having people concentrated in one place.”

# What as a Community would you want more of?



Out of the data collected the people of Santa Rosa would mostly want more parks to be implemented to the city, as well as parks to be updated and have added lighting around the city, along with the addition of more homes.

## Do you want to keep the land unused?



Best response:

“Green space restrictions between the towns have made it so that our area (SoCo) does not look like the Greater Bay area to the south of us. Our towns are distinct, and have their own character, and do not contribute to unrestrained development. In my mind, these are probably some of the more important land use restrictions County Planners put into place long ago, and it would be sad for a host of reasons to see them go.”