

DAVID SMITH MEMORIAL PARK

Town of Windsor
CALIFORNIA

MASTER PLAN

FINAL | JANUARY 7, 2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan (Master Plan) aims to guide planners, designers, and the Town of Windsor (Town) in developing a new and improved David Smith Memorial Park, previously known as Pleasant Oak Park in Windsor, California. The conceptual design proposed in this plan is tailored to the project goals based on stakeholder input with a focus on being inclusive to all-abilities, ages, and demographics. A key aspect of this focus involves blending the existing site uses with the indigenous culture of the Pomo people in and around Windsor and honoring the life and teachings of David Smith.

David Smith Memorial Park is an 8.5-acre neighborhood park in east Windsor along Old Redwood Highway. The park's parcel is shared with the Windsor Unified School District (WUSD) and sits adjacent to Mattie Washburn Elementary School, which serves students from preschool through second grade.

PURPOSE

The Master Plan's purpose is to expand inclusive recreation amenities, enhance existing natural features, and revitalize underutilized spaces at the park while celebrating the people and languages native to the land now known as Windsor. This document will provide the Town with direction to source funding to construct the improvements at David Smith Memorial Park in the coming years.

VISION

TO CREATE A VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY HUB THAT CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS HISTORY, FOSTERS CONNECTION TO NATURE, AND INSPIRES DISCOVERY THROUGH PLAY.

GOAL 1

Design a vibrant, inclusive park through placemaking that celebrates nature and cultural history.

GOAL 2

Create a regional play destination and neighborhood social hub.

GOAL 3

Minimize impact on residents in the neighborhood.

GOAL 4

Complement activities and needs of the adjacent school.

GOAL 5

Offer a multi-generational recreation space that is inclusive of everyone.

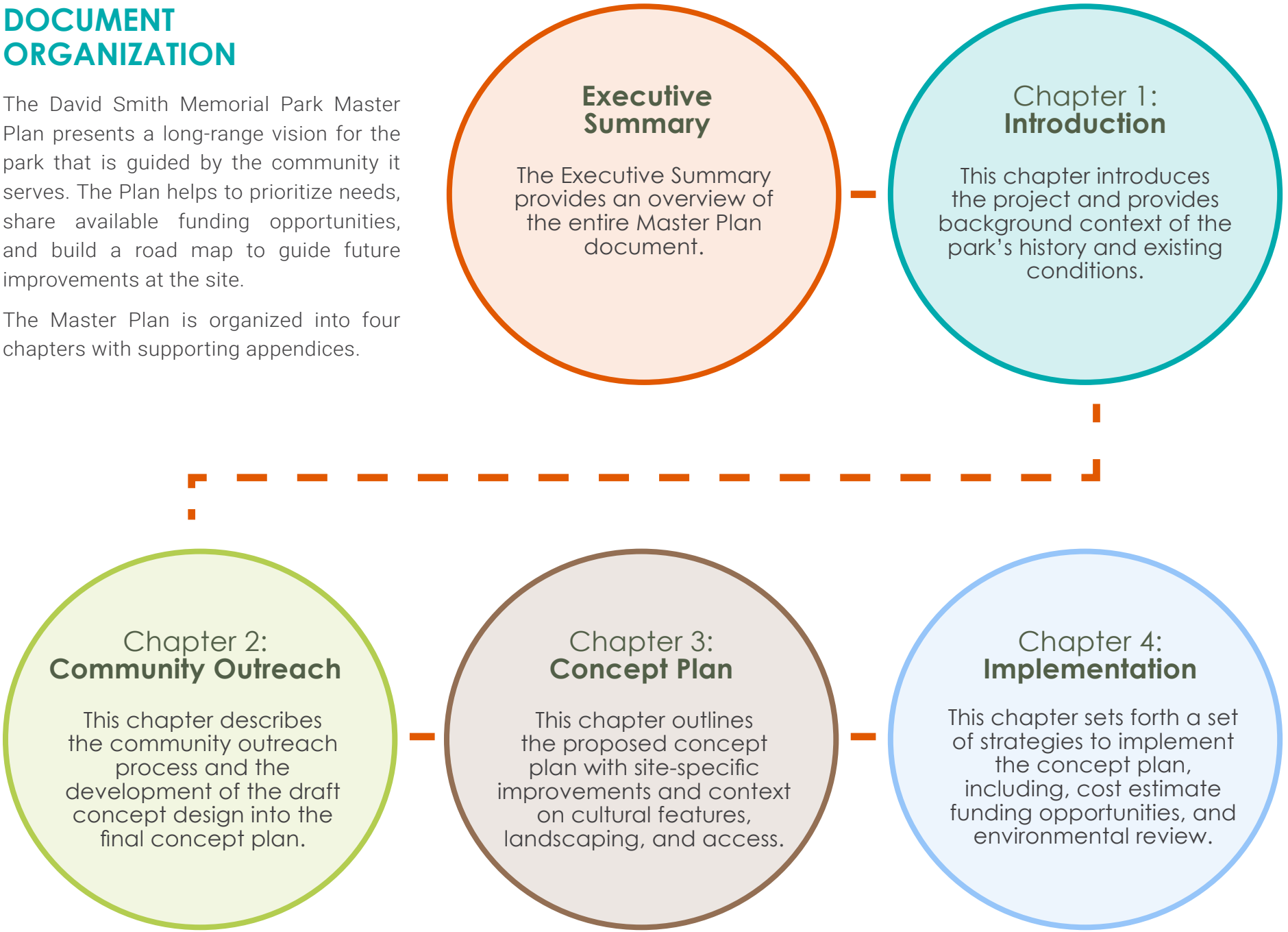
GOAL 6

Ensure the recreation goals of the community today and in the future are met.

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan presents a long-range vision for the park that is guided by the community it serves. The Plan helps to prioritize needs, share available funding opportunities, and build a road map to guide future improvements at the site.

The Master Plan is organized into four chapters with supporting appendices.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan was shaped by a robust community engagement process designed to reflect the diverse voices and values of the surrounding community. Outreach efforts were conducted in two rounds, each building upon the feedback received to inform the park's evolving design. Over 400 community participants provided input through an online survey, pop-up events, workshops, public meetings, and discussions with two advisory committees.

In the first round of outreach (April/May 2024), participants provided input about existing park features and ideas for enhancement in the future. They showed strong support for inclusive and nature-based play, improved accessibility, and preserving the park's natural character. Community members emphasized the need for safer paths, better-maintained amenities, and features that serve a broad range of ages and abilities. They also wanted to ensure the revitalized park recognized local Indigenous culture, honored the legacy of David Smith, and provided opportunities for gathering and quiet enjoyment of nature.

During the second round of outreach (September/October 2024), the community responded to a preliminary park design that incorporated these priorities. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with residents affirming that the plan aligned with the project's goals for inclusivity, recreation, and cultural representation. Participants especially supported the proposed all-abilities and nature play areas, water play, improved dog park, and gathering spaces. Feedback also led to design refinements, including a clearer approach to parking, tree preservation, and minimizing neighborhood impacts.

At the end of the outreach period, a Cultural Review Report was distributed to members of the Indigenous community in the Windsor area. The Cultural Review Report explored potential design elements that reflect the traditions of the Southern Pomo people and provide meaningful cultural representation in the park. This report served to highlight educational opportunities and guide consultation with Tribal Nations during the park's planning process.

Together, these engagement efforts helped create a shared vision for a park that is welcoming, vibrant, and rooted in its natural and cultural landscape.



Party in the Park outreach event, May 2024

CONCEPT PLAN

The proposed concept plan responds to the project goals and community desires to transform the existing park into a regional hub. It prioritizes accessibility, inclusive recreation opportunities and the natural features of the park while celebrating the local Indigenous culture and late David Smith. The proposed improvements aim to foster community interaction and celebrate of the local Indigenous people native to the land.

The park elements feature several specific characteristics linked to Indigenous history and the late David Smith. These include play elements, native planting, gathering spaces, and interactive educational experiences.

KEY AMENITIES

- All-Abilities and nature playground
- Plaza (water play area removed)
- Event lawn
- Flex zones
- Picnic areas
- Dog park
- Restroom
- Parking Lots



Figure 0-1: David Smith Memorial Park proposed concept plan

IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Given the preliminary nature of master plans, construction costs may vary significantly when estimating costs from preliminary designs. The estimated total project cost for the David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan improvements is estimated at approximately $12.3 million in 2025. Funding strategies should consider grants, public-private partnerships, property assessments, and park impact fees for design and construction of the recommended improvements.

See Chapter 4: Implementation or Appendix C for a detailed breakdown of the cost estimate.


What do you LIKE/DISLIKE about the park?
LEARN MORE AND TAKE THE COMMUNITY SURVEY!
EASTOAKPARKMP.COM



CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces David Smith Memorial Park and its exisiting context, history, and site conditions to provide understanding of the park today to inform enhancement decisions for tomorrow.

INTRODUCTION

PROJECT OVERVIEW

David Smith Memorial Park (previously known as Pleasant Oak Park) is a beloved neighborhood park that sits on the eastern edge of Windsor along Old Redwood Highway. The David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan is a forward looking document that aims to guide Town staff with future improvements to the park site. The Master Plan considers current, past, and future planning efforts and demographic trends to best plan for future use of the park.

The project's vision and goals aim to revitalize David Smith Memorial Park into a vibrant hub for all abilities and ages while honoring the local Indigenous people and traditions.

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PROJECT GOALS

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GOAL 6

Ensure the recreation goals of the community today and in the future are met.

PARK RENAMING

On April 17, 2024, the Town Council of the Town of Windsor approved the renaming of Pleasant Oak Park to David Smith Memorial Park in an act to recognize and honoring the Indigenous cultures and people of our region.

With this action, the hope is to increase dialog with the neighboring Tribal Nations, create cultural connections within our community and actively engage in the broad education of language and traditional practices of the Southern Pomo people indigenous to the land Windsor now sits on.

Prior to the renaming of the Park, the Town of Windsor completed another community-driven collaboration called the Wisdom Tree Mural. This project was a partnership between the Town, Pomo artists Bonnie Lockhart and Eric Wilder and Native education and storyteller Rose Hammock. Over the course of ten workshops in 2022-



Windsor tree Mural

2023, members of the Pomo community were invited to express their thoughts through their art. The Wisdom Tree Mural Project was completed and installed on a Town building in May of 2023.

IN HONOR

David Smith, a revered elder of the Kashia Pomo tribe, played a significant role in preserving and revitalizing Pomo culture. He had a lasting impact on the Windsor community through his music, dance, storytelling, and leadership. As a dancer and a member of the influential Flicker Band, he was widely respected for his efforts to keep traditional Pomo practices alive. Known for his performances in "Big Time" gatherings, where tribes come together to celebrate their heritage, Smith's dances became symbolic of cultural pride and resilience. His deep connection to the traditions of the Pomo people left a lasting impact on those around him.

Smith's influence extended beyond the Kashia Pomo, inspiring efforts to revive traditional customs in areas like Windsor. His contributions have led many to push for the return of traditional Pomo practices, particularly dancing, in local communities. Referred to as one of "our people's teacher[s]," he was seen as a cultural guardian, continuing the legacy of his aunt, Essie Pinola Parrish, a highly respected Pomo leader and spiritual guide.



David Smith
Source: Carolina Simon-Pardo, 2022

In addition to his cultural work, David Smith was an avid traditional fisherman, embodying the coastal roots of the Pomo tribe. He used traditional techniques, reinforcing the tribe's deep connection to the land and sea. Smith also participated in the historic Occupation of Alcatraz, a pivotal event that brought attention to Native American rights.

Throughout his life, David Smith not only preserved the cultural practices of his ancestors but also inspired future generations to embrace and celebrate their heritage. His work continues to influence efforts to restore Pomo traditions and pass them on to younger generations.



Bernadette Smith, daughter of David Smith, stands by the remnamed park's new sign
Source: Louis Joesph, 2024



"Big Time" Pomo Indian dancer

CONTEXT AND HISTORY

TOWN OF WINDSOR

The Town is nestled in Sonoma County, approximately 10 miles north of the City of Santa Rosa (Figure 1-1). It is surrounded by agricultural land, wine country, and the Russian River. Spanning nearly 7.3 square miles, it is home to over 26,000 people and multiple schools, parks, and facilities. The Town manages 128 acres of community and neighborhood parkland, as well as holds a Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with the Windsor Unified School District (WUSD).

INDIGENOUS SIGNIFICANCE

The arrival of the colonists in the 18th century brought forced displacement, attempt of cultural erasure and violence. The Town recognizes this injustice of the past and is actively working to recognize the Southern Pomo tribes of the area and with a goal of creating a connection of the language, traditions and people back to the land.

Today, David Smith Memorial Park is located at 302 Sugar Maple Lane which is on land within the territory of the Southern Pomo Sebastopol group, now represented by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (Figure 3). Neighboring tribal territories to the north include Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians and Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians; to the west is the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians of the Lytton Rancheria and the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria; to the east is the Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley; and to the south is the Coast Miwok also represented by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

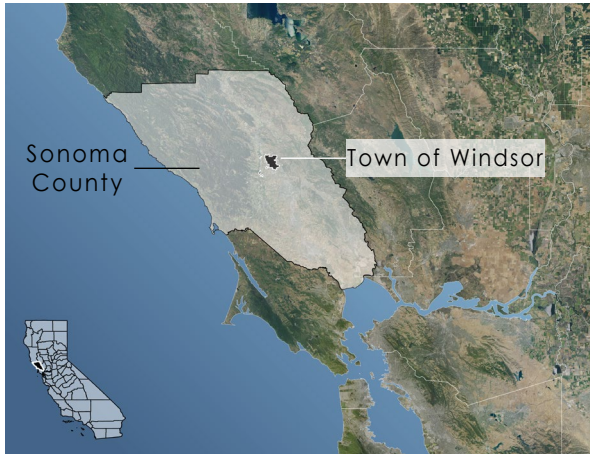


Figure 1-1: Windsor context map

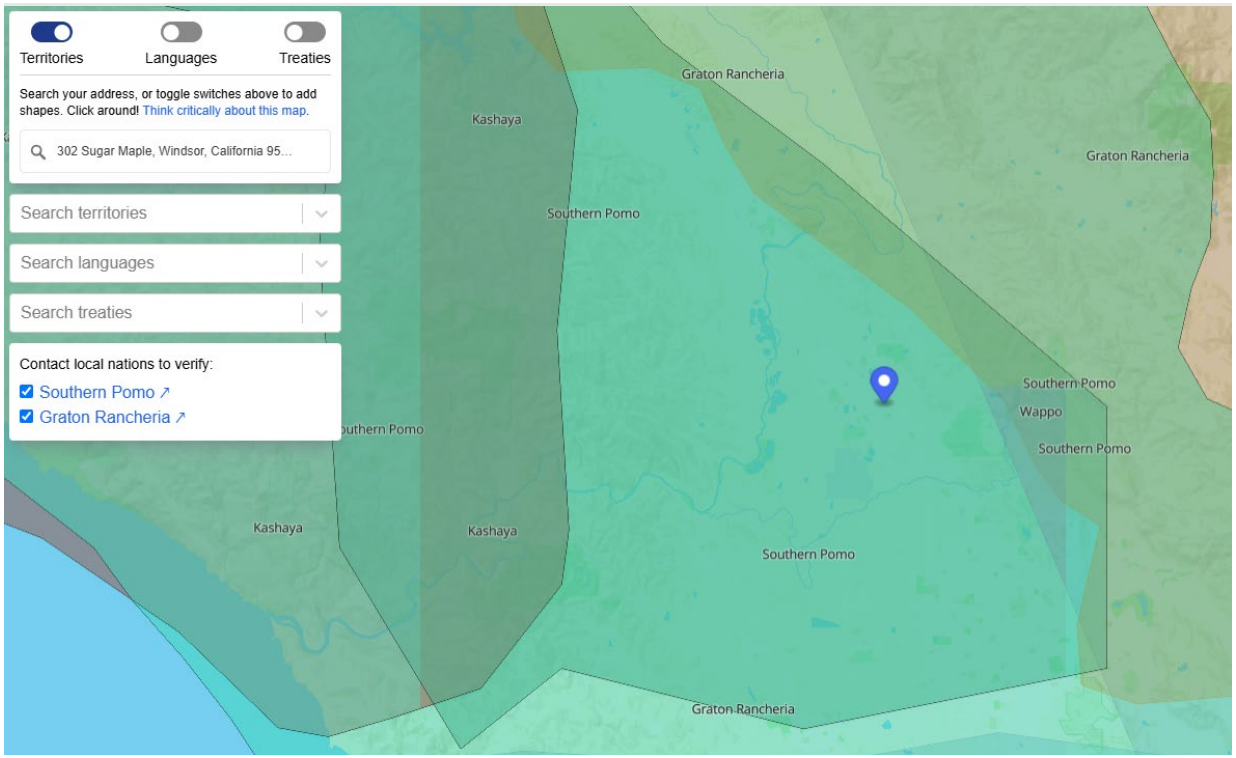
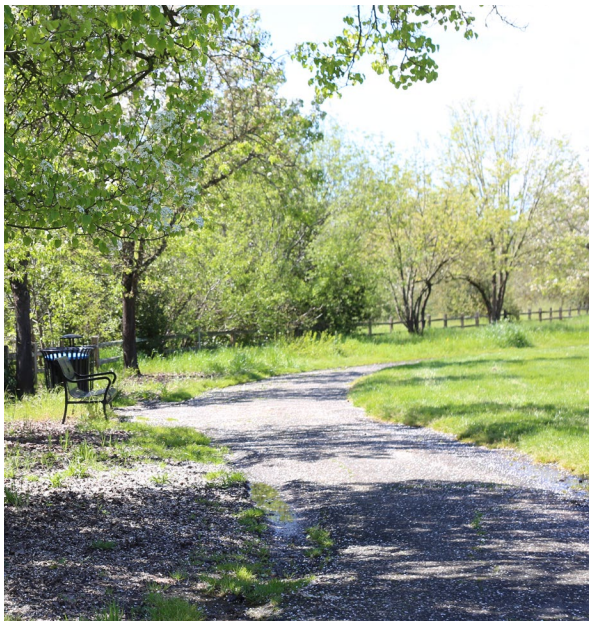


Figure 1-2: Native Land digital context map

ABOUT THE PARK

David Smith Memorial Park offers leisure and recreational opportunities to surrounding residents and pets. The park is filled with open green space, areas of undeveloped habitat, two playgrounds, swings, picnic areas, a dog park, and paved walkways. A seasonal drainage channel bisects the park, inviting a diversity of wildlife to the site. The park is shaded with tree canopy along its edges and pathways. Benches line the walkways, with several seating nodes available to visitors throughout the park site. The park previously hosted volleyball and horseshoe courts that are no longer in use.



Walking path

SURROUNDING CONTEXT

The Park's southern edge sits along the Old Redwood Highway. Across Old Redwood Highway to the west and north are residential areas. Northeast of the park are two baseball fields and an adjoining parking lot. These fields are not a part of the park but are heavily used by youth baseball leagues and bring people to the area. The park parcel is shared with WUSD and sits adjacent to Mattie Washburn Elementary School to the east, which serves students in preschool through second grade and has a student population of approximately 500.



Figure 1-3: Context map

ACCESS

David Smith Memorial Park is primarily accessed via Old Redwood Highway. Additional access is provided by Shadetree Drive, Sugar Maple Lane, and Pleasant Avenue, which connects directly to Mattie Washburn Elementary School and serves as an emergency vehicle access (EVA) route. A Sonoma County Transit (SCT) Route 60 bus stop is at the park, offering convenient access from across Windsor and neighboring communities like Cloverdale, Healdsburg, and Santa Rosa. A Class II bike route along Old Redwood Highway connects the park to other community services, schools, neighborhoods, and commercial areas, making it easy to reach by bike or on foot.

The park welcomes visitors through three entry points, with the main entrance off Pleasant Avenue. While there's no dedicated parking lot, visitors can use nearby street parking on Sugar Maple Lane or shared lots at the adjacent ballfields and school when permitted.

A well connected network of pedestrian pathways links the park amenities and seamlessly integrates into the perimeter sidewalks. Two pedestrian bridges over the creek help create a continuous walkable experience throughout the park.



Figure 1-4: Access and circulation map

EXISTING PARK FEATURES

1. Playground (2-5)
2. Playground (5-12)
3. Swing Set
4. Dog Park
5. Reservable Picnic Area
6. Multi-Use Lawn
7. Park Sign
8. Pedestrian Bridge

- Bike Parking
- Bench
- Picnic Table

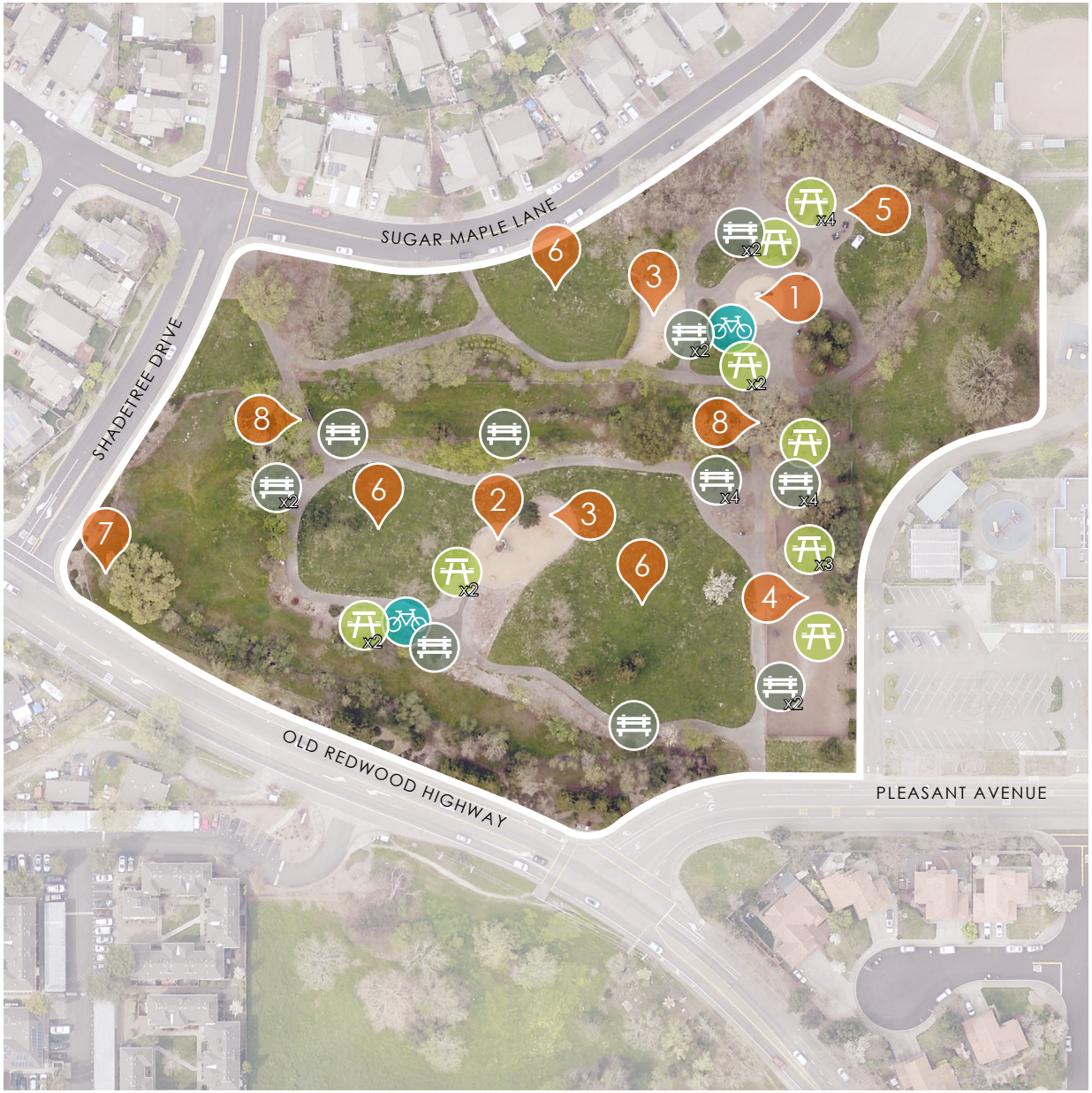


Figure 1-5: Site map

AMENITIES

The park offers several active and passive recreation amenities for users to enjoy. Though the park provides a pleasant experience, the amenities are outdated and have not seen renovations since its construction.

Playgrounds

- Two play areas for ages 2-5 and ages 5-12.
- Features include play structures, freestanding play elements, and swing sets with bucket and belt seats.
- Condition: Play areas are outdated and require maintenance and improved accessibility.

Picnic Areas

- Multiple picnic areas are available, including a reservable site near the 2-5 play area and tables near the 5-12 play area and dog park.
- Amenities include nearby trash receptacles, barbecues, and drinking fountains.
- Condition: Tables range from fair to poor condition, and require maintenance and improved ADA accessibility.



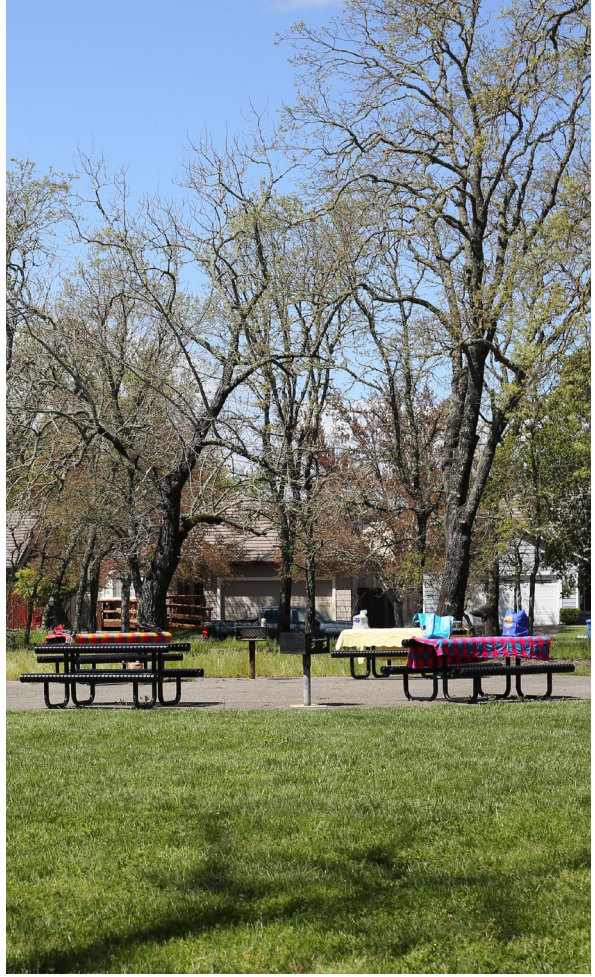
Existing ages 2-5 playground



Swing set by the 2-5 play area



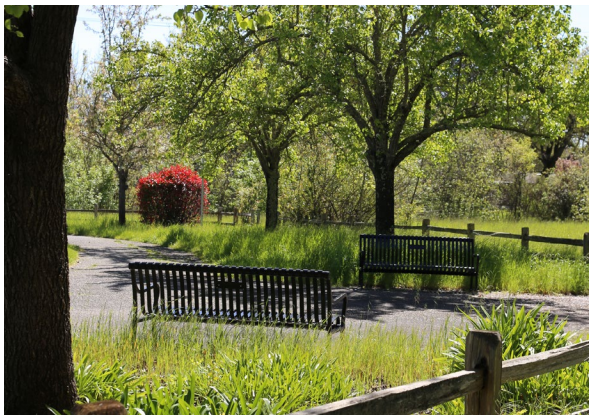
Existing ages 2-5 playground



Reservable picnic area



Picnic tables by the 5-12 play area



Seating node by the wetland



Bridge crossing



Off-leash dog park picnic tables

Rest Areas

- Rest areas are available throughout the park, including near the dog park and by the wetland, with additional benches along pathways.
- Condition: Benches range from fair to good condition.

Off-Leash Dog Park

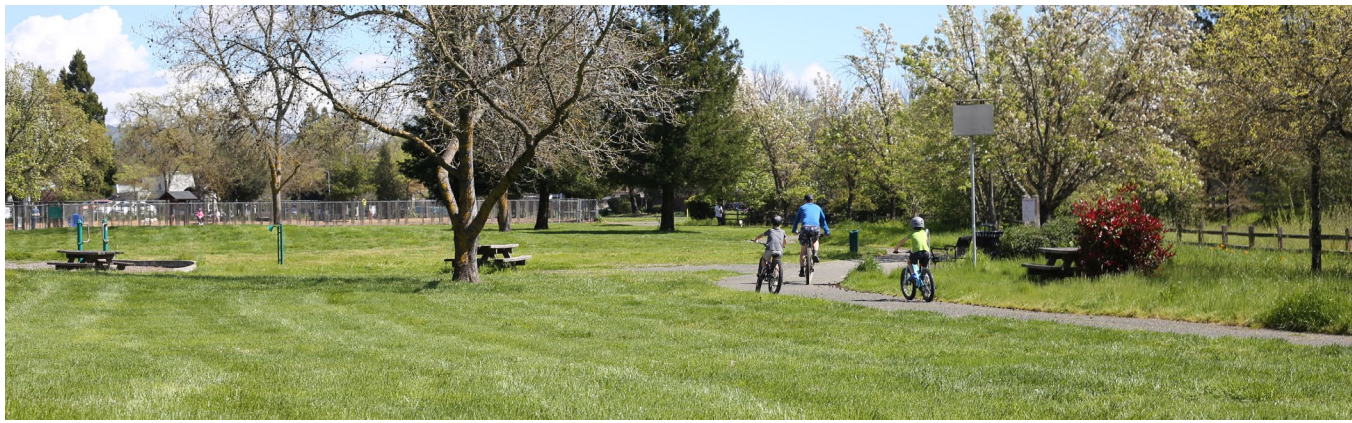
- 23,000 sqft space for dogs of all sizes
- Includes double-gated entries, shaded seating, picnic tables, bulletin board, drinking water, and dog waste stations
- Surfacing: Engineered wood fiber (maintenance issue)
- Condition: Generally in good shape and well-loved by users

Pathways

- Asphalt looped paths approximately eight feet wide
- Used for walking, biking, roller skating, exercise, and dog walking
- Condition: Severe warping from tree roots creates uneven surfaces and safety concerns

Bike Racks

- Located at both play areas
- Condition: Fair, functional



Inner pathways and open lawn space

SITE CONDITIONS

Understanding the park site's natural conditions, such as sun exposure, wind patterns, and existing topography, is essential to designing a more comfortable and enjoyable user experience for visitors (Figure 1-6).

In Windsor, the sun's path during the summer is higher in the sky than during the winter. Due to the park's dense tree canopy, much of the site is well-shaded in cooler months but receives less shade in spring and summer. This highlights the need for added shade near key amenities like picnic areas and playgrounds to ensure year-round comfort.

Wind conditions vary by season, with winter winds blowing from the north and summer winds from the southwest. Given Windsor's windy climate, adding wind protection through strategic planting or built structures should be considered to help shelter high-use areas and enhance the overall user experience

Figure 1-6 further illustrates the existing tree canopy, key elevation changes such as mounds in the central lawn, and the fenced easement around the creek and wetland areas, which are not publicly accessible.



Figure 1-6: Existing conditions diagram

LANDSCAPE

The park's landscape offers a diversity of natural elements that are beloved by the community and neighboring residents. Open lawn areas, wetlands, two channels, a riparian corridor, and a dense tree canopy fill the park and create a natural oasis.

The park's topography is generally flat but fluctuates with elevated mounds in the central lawn area and depths in the channels and wetland. This makes the park primarily accessible to all people and allows for a mix of recreation opportunities.

The open lawn areas to the north and center of the park provide space for passive and active recreation opportunities. A dense tree canopy frames the entire park site from any view, offering shaded walkways and seating areas year-round.

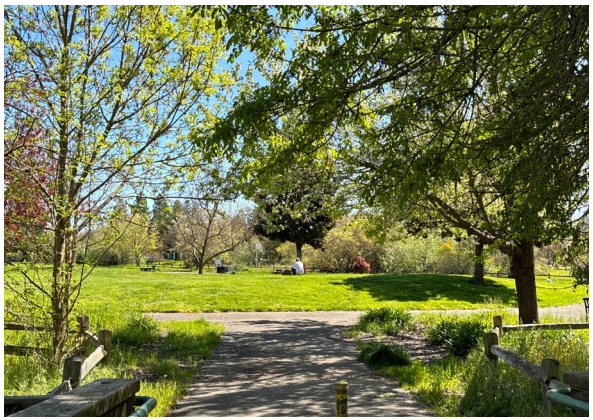
At the center of the park, a channel runs east to west and is home to natural grassland, mature oak trees, and other riparian flora. This seasonal channel connects to a tributary of Mark West Creek, which links to the Russian River. A secondary channel also runs east to west along the southern edge of the site and is surrounded by oaks and willow trees. These channels filter out to a wetland that sits on the southeast edge of the park, home to a plethora of natural grassland and more mature trees. These channels have steep banks fenced off from public access to avoid injury.

Landscaped planting areas edge the channels and other parts of the park, complimenting the natural landscape and offering a mix of scenic views.

These elements create a space for biodiversity and cohabitation to thrive in the center of Windsor. Understanding the importance of these natural assets to Windsor residents and the park's identity, the proposed site plan must ensure the preservation of these elements. A full environmental assessment of the park can be found in Appendix D.

CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDY REPORT

As part of site analysis, a cultural resource study (CRS) was conducted. A CRS, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is a process to identify, evaluate, and mitigate potential impacts proposed projects may have on historical or tribal cultural resources. The study found no signficant resources at David Smith Memorial Park that would impact design and construction at the site.



Tree frame scenic views



Natural grassland and plantings in the central channel



Existing wetland





CHAPTER 2
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This chapter summarizes the community engagement process from project beginning to end, and the input received that informed the final park design.

OUTREACH PROCESS OVERVIEW

Community input was central to shaping the David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan. Over 400 community members participated in three rounds of outreach, which included surveys, pop-up events, workshops, advisory committee meetings, and public presentations.

The project website (pleasantoakparkmp.com) launched in April 2024 and provided a project description, timeline, past and upcoming engagement opportunities, contact information, and reference documents for the community to keep up to date with the project. Outreach promotion included both print (postcards, flyers, signs) and digital (social media, emails) materials, all featuring project-specific branding and multi-lingual content. These materials generated awareness about the project and drove participation in the outreach activities.

Community participants shared a strong vision for a park that is inclusive, nature-based, and reflective of local culture. Key priorities included accessible play for all ages and abilities, improved pathways and restrooms, nature play and water features, and spaces for gathering and quiet reflection. The preliminary design received broad support for its integration of cultural elements, expanded recreation, and thoughtful layout, while feedback from neighbors led to refinements around parking, tree preservation, and minimizing impacts to adjacent homes.

After the completion of Round 2 outreach, a Cultural Review Report was distributed to members of the Indigenous community in the Windsor area. The report offered a focused exploration of potential design elements that reflect the traditions and heritage of the Southern Pomo people, the Indigenous stewards of this land. It was developed to support the David Smith Memorial Park renovation with the intention to guide consultation with Tribal Nations. Later, the tribes received a Cultural Resources Report that included site analysis and an updated park concept. Feedback on these reports helped ensure that cultural representation in the park design is accurate, respectful, and meaningful.

Table 2-1 provides a full overview of the outreach process for the David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan.



Town Green outreach event, June 2024



Party in the Park outreach event, May 2024

Table 2-1: Outreach Process Summary

	Method	Media/Location	Details	Dates	Participants
ROUND 1	**Survey**	Online	Likes/Challenges/Ideas Community Survey	5/1/2024-5/31/2024	367
	Pop-Up Event	Pleasant Oak Park, Windsor	"Party in the Park" hosted by Town Parks & Recreation	5/11/2024	15
	Webinar	Zoom	--	5/22/2024	0
	Pop-Up Event	Town Green, Windsor	"Concerts on the Green" event hosted by Town	5/30/2024	15
Round 2	**Pop-Up Event**	Pleasant Oak Park, Windsor	"Party in the Park" hosted by Town Parks & Recreation	9/18/2024	33
	Workshop	Mattie Washburn Elementary School	Design Workshop with Kindergarten Class	10/2/2024	20
	Public Meeting	Town Hall	Preliminary Concept Feedback	9/11/2024	--
	Public Review	Project Website	Preliminary Concept Feedback	9/8/2024-10/10/2024	2
Round 3	**Report**	Local Tribes	Cultural Review Report	December 2024-January 2025	--
	Report	Local Tribes	Cultural Resources Report	July - October 2025	--
	Public Meeting	Town Hall	Parks and Recreation Commission Master Plan approval	November 12, 2025	--
	Public Meeting	Town Hall	Town Council Master Plan adoption	January 7, 2026	--
				TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	400+

ROUND 1

The first phase of community outreach focused on identifying needs, gathering ideas, and establishing a vision for the future of David Smith Memorial Park. Outreach efforts were designed to engage a broad range of stakeholders and community members to ensure the planning process was inclusive and reflective of local values.

To guide the project, two advisory groups were formed. The first was an eight-member committee with expertise in inclusive play and universally accessible public spaces. The second included representatives from the Smith Family and the Progressive Tribal Alliance, who provided cultural insight to ensure that the plan respectfully honors the legacy of David Smith and reflects the area's Pomo heritage.

In addition to meetings with these advisory groups, public engagement during this round included an online community survey, a virtual webinar, and two in-person pop-up events. These activities offered multiple opportunities for residents to share their perspectives and help shape the project vision.

KEY THEMES IDENTIFIED DURING ROUND 1

INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Community members emphasized the importance of creating a park that is welcoming and usable for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. There was strong support for play areas that serve a range of developmental and physical needs, along with improved access routes throughout the site. Suggestions included smooth, accessible pathways, improved surfacing, and better sidewalk and crosswalk connections. Advisory Committee members further underscored the need for accessible restrooms, seating areas, signage, and social spaces.

PARK MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP

Residents expressed concern that the park had been neglected over time, with aging infrastructure and worn-out amenities. Survey participants ranked renovations to walking paths, playground equipment, and lawn areas as the most important improvements needed. Many described the park as a valued neighborhood asset that deserves more consistent care and investment.



Pop-up in the park, September 2024



Design workshop at Mattie Washburn Elementary School, October 2024



DSMP Master Plan Cultural Review Report, 2024

PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

Play was identified as a primary use of the park, with the playground being the most common reason people visit. However, many felt the current equipment was outdated and uninspiring. Participants requested new play features that are engaging, inclusive, and incorporate natural elements. Water play was ranked as the most desired new amenity.

COMFORT AND SAFETY

Community feedback highlighted the need to improve safety and comfort across the site. Participants raised concerns about uneven walking paths and deteriorating lawn areas, which were seen as safety hazards. Restrooms and shaded areas were among the most requested amenities. Many participants also expressed a desire for fencing or other boundaries around the play area and dog park to improve security and peace of mind for families.

CONNECTION TO NATURE

Participants valued the park's natural setting and expressed a desire to preserve and enhance it. Walking paths and natural areas were among the most appreciated existing features. Many respondents described the park as a peaceful "oasis" and supported efforts promote habitat for local wildlife and incorporate nature into the design of play and gathering areas. Advisory Committee members also emphasized the importance of using native plants throughout the park.

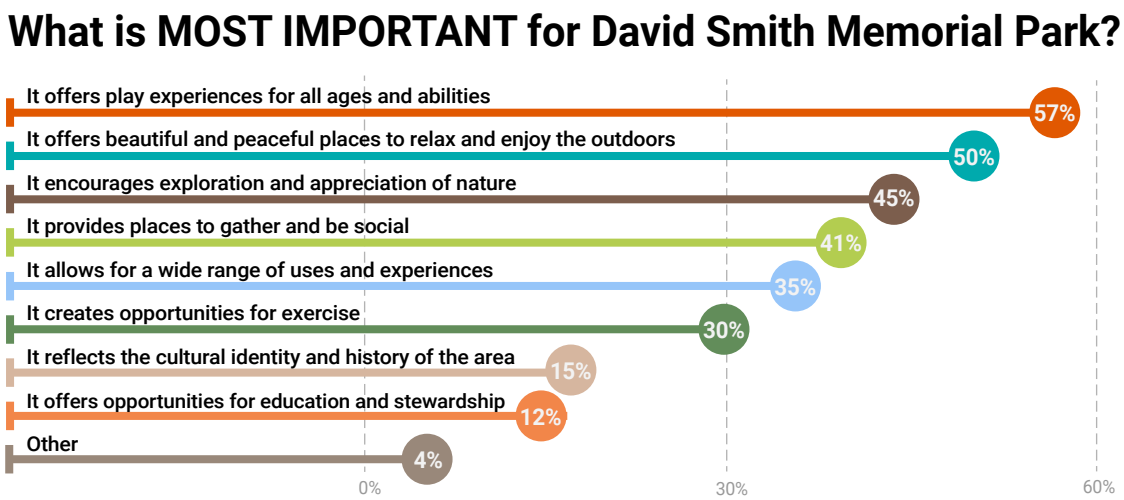


Figure 2-2: Most important feature for David Smith Memorial Park, Round 1

OUTREACH THEMES

1. Inclusivity & Accessibility
2. Maintenance & Upkeep
3. Play Opportunities
4. Comfort & Safety
5. Connection to Nature
6. Dog Park Use
7. Cultural Representation

Most Liked Park Feature:
Walking Paths

Most Desired New Amenity:
Water Features / Play

Most Desired for Accessibility:
Inclusive Play Elements

Most Desired Play Feature:
Water Play

DOG PARK USE AND IMPROVEMENTS

The existing fenced dog park was recognized as a popular amenity, especially among local dog owners who value the open space and natural landscaping. Participants supported enhancing the dog park with better surfacing, more seating, and added shade. There was also interest in separating areas for large and small dogs. Some respondents voiced concern about the dog park's current proximity to the adjacent school and potential conflicts with children and families.

CULTURAL REPRESENTATION

Participants showed strong support for integrating Indigenous cultural elements into the park. Stakeholders suggested including play features inspired by tribal stories, spaces for cultural gatherings, and interpretive elements that highlight traditional land stewardship, native plants, and other aspects of local Pomo heritage.

> ***"Keeping the park green is very important."***

> ***"The dog park is heavily used and deserves some attention and upgrades."***



Bird play element shown as inspiration image in Cultural Review Report

ROUND 2

The preliminary design for David Smith Memorial Park was developed in response to key priorities identified through Round 1 outreach, with an emphasis on inclusivity, accessibility, and cultural representation. The proposed concept integrates recreational, educational, and environmental elements to create a welcoming community destination for all ages and abilities. The preliminary park concept was presented for public review and feedback. This round aimed to assess how well the proposed design reflected the goals established at the outset of the project, including inclusivity, cultural representation, and environmental sensitivity.

PARK LAYOUT AND KEY FEATURES

The proposed design organizes the park into distinct activity zones that support multi-generational use while preserving the park's natural character. Major features include:

- **All-Abilities and Nature Play Areas:** A central play zone features nature play elements and inclusive equipment designed for a wide range of physical and developmental needs.
- **Interactive Water Play:** A water play area provides an interactive and fun experience that incorporates themes from the region's local watershed and ecosystem.

> *"A splash pad area would be fantastic!"*

- **Large Gathering Space:** A flexible lawn supports community gatherings, events, performances, and cultural celebrations. Natural buffers and strategic placement help reduce sound impacts on nearby residents.
- **Flexible Lawn Zones and Picnic Areas:** Open lawn areas offer space for informal sports, picnics, and social activities. Shaded picnic areas with tables and seating support small group gatherings.

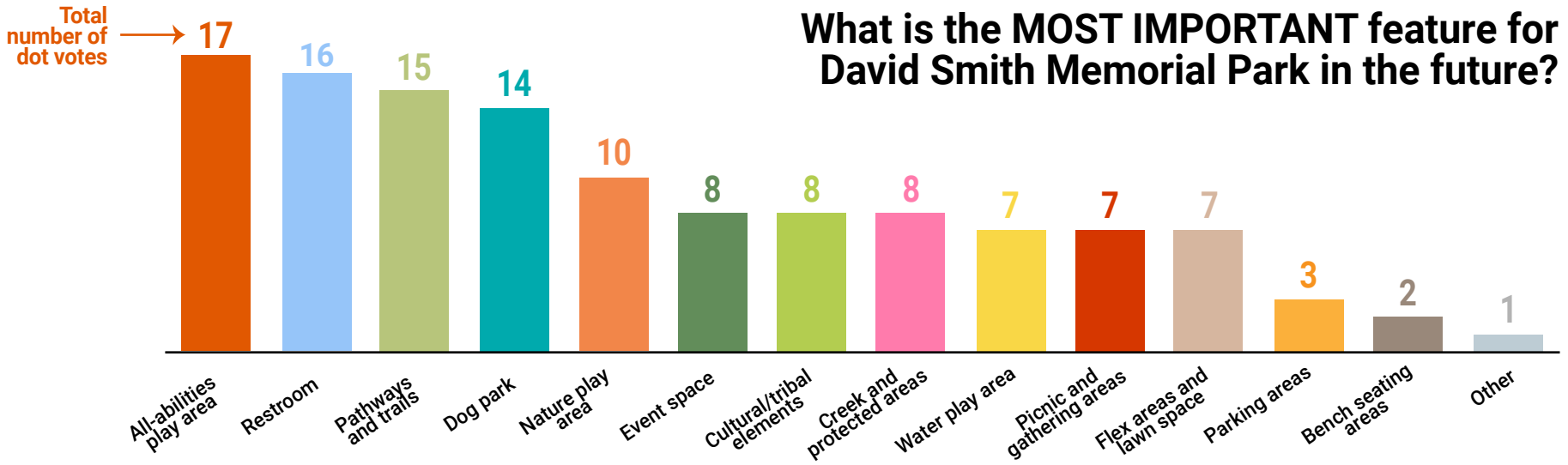


Figure 2-3: Most important feature for David Smith Memorial Park in the future, Round 2

- **Enhanced Dog Park:** The existing off-leash dog park is improved with new surfacing, seating, and shade amenities, divided into separate areas for large and small dogs to enhance safety and enjoyment for all users.
- **Circulation and Comfort:** Pathways are designed to to be easily navigable and accessible to all park amenities. Seating, shaded areas, and rest areas are placed throughout the site to enhance comfort and usability.

CULTURAL INTEGRATION AND EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

Cultural representation of the local Native tribes is woven into the park design, honoring the legacy of David Smith and the area's Pomo heritage. Key elements include:

Culturally Inspired Play Features

Play elements shaped like acorns and baskets reflect traditional Pomo designs, helping connect children and families with local cultural stories through play.

Educational Water Play Area

Interpretive elements within the water play zone educate visitors about the park's watershed and the cultural significance of water in tribal traditions.

Native Planting and Interpretive Walk

Native plants are used throughout the park, highlighting species traditionally used by Indigenous peoples. An educational walk features interpretive signage that shares information about Pomo land stewardship, ethnobotany, and local ecology.

SUPPORT FACILITIES

The design includes accessible parking areas, modern restroom facilities, and educational signage. These improvements enhance overall functionality while supporting a park environment that is welcoming, safe, and informative.

Together, these design elements reflect a cohesive vision for David Smith Memorial Park that balances recreation, education, and cultural celebration within a thoughtfully designed, accessible natural setting.



Inclusive playground



Flexible lawn spaces

> ***"Restrooms and walking path re-surfacing are critical to the future growth and success of the park."***



Figure 2-4: Preliminary park design concept, 2024

DESIGN FEEDBACK

In August 2024, stakeholder meetings were held with the project's Advisory Committee and representatives of the Smith Family to gather initial reactions to the draft concept. These discussions helped inform refinements before broader community outreach about the design. The preliminary concept was posted on the project website for public comment and presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission in September 2024. A public pop-up at the park followed, where community members engaged directly with Town staff and consultants to share feedback on the proposal and evaluate its alignment with the community's priorities.

Overall, the community response to the preliminary concept was highly favorable. Participants broadly supported the design approach and agreed that it effectively addressed the project's key objectives—creating a welcoming, multi-generational park that highlights natural features, celebrates local Indigenous culture, and offers inclusive recreational opportunities.



Water play splash pad

Expanding play amenities emerged as a clear priority. There was strong support for the proposed all-abilities playground, nature play zones, and interactive water play elements. Other frequently cited priorities included the addition of accessible pathways, modern restrooms, and improvements to the existing dog park.

The concept's cultural elements were particularly well received. Community members valued the integration of Pomo-inspired features, such as basket and acorn motifs in the play areas, and appreciated the flexible gathering space suitable for cultural events, storytelling, and communal activities.

While feedback was largely positive, some concerns were raised by residents living adjacent to the park, particularly along Sugar Maple Lane. These concerns centered on noise, traffic, and potential loss of mature trees and views. Opposition to the proposed parking expansion was also noted, with several neighbors citing existing challenges related to safety and security. Some residents expressed concern that increased development could negatively impact the park's natural character.

ROUND 3

The final round of community engagement occurred from Fall 2025 to Winter 2026. It included tribal feedback on Cultural Review and Cultural Resources Reports, as well as public presentations of the final plan to Parks and Recreation Commission and Town Council.

Durning the final public meeting on January 7, 2026, the Town Council received public comment regarding the final draft of the Master Plan. During this meeting, a few neighbors voiced concern about the splash pad element which was included in the conceptual design. After much discussion, the Town Council approved the Master Plan with the splash pad and interactive water play features removed from the design.



CHAPTER 3
CONCEPT PLAN

This chapter illustrates the proposed site enhancements that will transform David Smith Memorial Park into a vibrant, all-abilities cultural hub for the entire Windsor and Sonoma County communities to enjoy.

CONCEPT PLAN

The proposed concept plan (Figure 3-1) responds to the project goals and community desires to incorporate inclusive and accessible recreation opportunities, highlights the natural features of the park, celebrates the local indigenous culture, and honors the late David Smith. The proposed improvements to this beloved neighborhood park enhance the overall visitor experience, providing a variety of new passive and active recreation opportunities with spaces for play, community gatherings and events, connection to nature, and leisure.

AMENITIES

ALL-ABILITIES PLAY/NATURE PLAY

The new play area is a combined multi-generational space featuring all-abilities and nature play amenities for children aged 2 to 5 and 5 to 12. The play area features accessible safety surfacing and is enclosed by a low height fence. It offers various shaded seating opportunities with companion seating to make it accessible for all users. The play features incorporate a mix of elements inspired by the local Native culture and Windsor's natural setting.

WATER PLAY (REMOVED)

The Water Play elements have been removed from the conceptual design based on Town Council direction on January 7, 2026. Originally, the water play area was designed from across the playground and along the park's primary walkway. It featured a variety of interactive water elements available for all ages to enjoy. Seat walls along the edge of the space designated the area while offering seating opportunities. The water play area was recommended to operate during the spring and summer months, and act as a plaza or an expansion of the adjacent picnic area during the offseason.

EVENT LAWN

The event lawn is located in the northeast corner of the park, buffered by the natural vegetated creek, mounds, and trees to help mitigate sound levels from other active-use amenities in the park and for nearby residents. The performance space integrates seamlessly with the lawn and features an overhead trellis that can be used as a backdrop for performances/ activities or to provide shade. It is easily reached from Sugar Maple Lane and the parking lots. It connects to both the main promenade walkway and a secondary pathway to route visitors along all edges, reducing the likelihood of passersby cutting through. The space features picnic tables along its eastern edges.



All-abilities playground (reference image)



Water play area (reference image)



Event space lawn (reference image)

Figure 3-1: **Site map**





Flex zones (reference image)



Picnic gathering area (reference image)



New paved pathways (reference image)

FLEX ZONES

Divided into sections by a walkway, the southeast open lawn area accommodates multiple simultaneous uses, such as pick-up soccer games and picnics. A smaller flex zone lawn to the north pairs with one of the park's three picnic areas and can be used to expand the event lawn space during large events.

PICNIC AREAS

There are three picnic areas placed strategically throughout the park that are available for daily public use and event reservation. Two of the picnic areas directly serve the playground and plaza (removed water play area), while the third area is located further north by the accessible parking lot. Singular and sets of picnic tables are distributed throughout the park site and event lawn to be accessible for general use without reservation.

DOG PARK

The dog park is upgraded into divided small and large dog areas with picnic tables in both. The primary entry point, accessible from Pleasant Avenue, has a separate double-gated zone for each area. The park should feature agility course equipment and open run areas, as well as drinking fountains, waste stations, and regulation signage.

PATHWAYS

Arterial promenades and meandering pathways run throughout the park, providing access to all amenities as well as parking and the Sonoma County Transit (SCT) bus route stop on Old Redwood Highway. The primary arterial pathway utilizes three bridges to cross the creek, ensuring continuous access throughout the site. Benches and seating nodes exist along the pathway to provide resting areas. Pathways should be paved with all-weather accessible surfacing and site furnishings should be durable and accessible while aesthetically matching the park's setting.

RESTROOM

A new restroom located next to the dog park and southeast flex zone includes family and accessible stalls as well as storage space. It is well-connected to the picnic areas, play areas, event lawn, and dog park via the park's pathway network.

PARKING LOT

A northwest parking lot with two entry and egress routes provides both accessible and regular parking stalls and creates a designated parking lot for the site. It's location offers convenient access to the adjacent picnic area, park pathways, small flex zone, and event lawn.

CULTURAL FEATURES

The concept plan's design celebrates the local Native tribes present in Windsor through specific characteristics linked to Pomo culture and traditions and the late David Smith. These include play elements, native planting, gathering spaces, and interactive educational experiences for visitors to learn more about the native people and their traditions and practices of the land (see Figure 3-2).

Local Tribal agencies and organizations should be partnered and consulted with during the implementation of these elements into David Smith Memorial Park.

PLAY

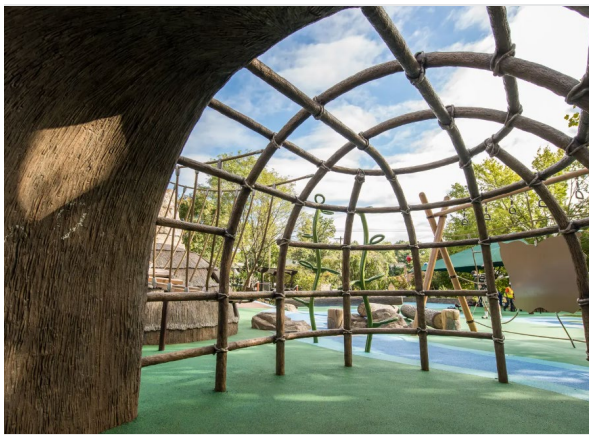
The design of the play area represents the local indigenous culture by replicating the shape of an acorn (Figure 3-2) and should include themed play elements



Figure 3-2: Acorn designed spaces at the park



Nature play area, Earthscape Play



Basket climbing play feature, Sparks@Play



Natural water play area in St. George, Utah



Acorn grinding

such as climbable baskets, flicker bird play structures and site furnishings, acorn-themed play elements, as well as acorn grinding opportunities in rocks. The surfacing design is proposed to replicate the traditional basket design from David Smith's family lineage. Signage will help explain the specific Indigenous elements to spread awareness and educate the public on the Pomo tribe's traditions and culture.

The designed water play area was themed around the Russian River Watershed, providing educational opportunities about the importance of protecting our watershed, highlighting spawning tributaries, and gathering places of the Pomo people through the Russian River Valley out to Bodega Bay and Jenner Headlands.

EVENT LAWN

The event lawn is designed to be used year-round by all park visitors while still accommodating the requirements for traditional native dancing and tribal celebrations. The area can accommodate large groups and offers free-standing picnic areas throughout the eastern edge. The event lawn's flat surface is made entirely of grass and features no hardscape, ideal for traditional tribal events. A wooden trellis provides a scenic backdrop. The space can accommodate a large group gathering of people.



Modern performance trellis

EDUCATION

An interactive educational walk along the preserved open space (see Figure 3-3) provides visitors with a snapshot into the Indigenous territory and the traditions of the Pomo tribes as they would travel





Top: Promo Tribe Big Time
Below: Traditional basket sculpture

Figure 3-3: **Indigenous experiences proposed for David Smith Memorial Park**





Educational signage walk



Educational signage with QR code



Tanoak tree

from the coast inland during the winter months. This educational walk starts at the creek bed area to the west and travels east, utilizing interactive signage that teaches visitors about this journey and the connection to our land and ecosystem. The signage will feature accessibility elements such as QR codes to listen to real stories, bi-lingual text in both English and the Pomo language, and embossed elements to touch. There are also other opportunities for signage around the park site, including at the native plantings area to educate the public on the plant's purposes and benefits, as well as stories of David Smith who was referred to as "Our People's Teacher."

NATIVE PLANTING

Design and management strategies within the park should consider culturally informed landscape practices, including plant selection and maintenance approaches that support traditional uses. Integrating these practices can reinforce the park's role as a living cultural landscape rather than solely a recreational space.

The overall planting plan will represent a varied palette of plants and trees which are native to the area. The preserved open space to the east will specifically feature plants and trees native to this region which were harvested and used by the Indigenous people of this area.

The future and on-going maintenance of this park will incorporate traditional ecological practices of land management. Through tribal advisors and David Smith's family, Town Staff will receive training and support on alternative maintenance techniques which may include rotating crops and holistic harvesting approaches. This systemic educational approach will help shift the urban landscape and propose a new dialog for more sustainable land management and conservation.

Educational signage throughout the park will share how the plants are used in basket making, for medicinal purposes, and other traditions. The Town of Windsor will seek tribal ecological experts and members of David Smith's family to serve as advisors for both the formal planting plan and long-range land management practices.

LANDSCAPE

The park's edges are thoughtfully designed with layered landscaping, including trees, berms, and native plantings, to serve as both visual and acoustic buffers from surrounding streets and residential areas. These natural barriers reduce noise, and enhance the overall sense of enclosure and retreat within the park. A mix of evergreen and deciduous trees can provide year-round screening, seasonal interest, and shade, while shrubs and understory vegetation contribute to sound absorption and ecological value.

Active use areas such as the playground and large flex lawn are intentionally located toward the interior of the park, where they are naturally insulated by the vegetated creek and topography. This helps minimize the spread of sound to adjacent homes. Similarly, the event lawn and gathering spaces are strategically screened with trees, berms, and ornamental grasses or bioswales to soften sound transmission during high-use events. These landscape features not only serve functional roles but also enhance habitat, improve stormwater management, and contribute to the park's overall aesthetic character and environmental resilience.



Perspective rendering from Sugar Maple Lane



Grass and understory vegetation buffers



Landscape areas

CIRCULATION

The park maintains the existing entrances for visitors from Pleasant Avenue and Sugar Maple Lane with the addition of two secondary entrances from both the residential neighborhood to the north and Old Redwood Highway to the south. The main entrance from Old Redwood Highway shifts to the central walking arterial that connects to the SCT bus route stop.

All entrances are connected by the park's central arterial path, which connects the site's key amenities including the central playground and plaza (removed water play area), reservable picnic areas, dog park, event lawn, flex zones, restrooms, and vehicular parking. Secondary meandering pathways help facilitate direct access to all areas of the park site from this central arterial path and the eastern promenade.

The two existing WUSD parking lots will remain available to the public, with a new additional designated parking lot consisting of six stalls available for park users along Sugar Maple Lane.

Pathways are to be paved with all-weather accessible surfacing and should consider enhancements such as color and texture to help enable all users easily navigate the site.



Figure 3-4: Access and circulation map



CHAPTER 4
IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter sets forth a guiding framework to achieve the improvements recommended in the David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan.

COST ESTIMATE

The David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan construction cost estimate includes typical industry breakdowns for direct construction costs (hard costs) and administration and permitting costs (soft costs). The project hard costs are generated based on the conceptual design, construction, and equipment procurement. Soft costs are based on the total hard costs amount and address contingencies, unknown design factors, design and engineering, permitting, and administration fees. Post construction landscaping maintenance fees are excluded from the cost estimate. The David Smith Park Master Plan improvements are expected to be conducted in one construction phase.

A summary of the full cost estimate for improvements to David Smith Memorial Park are provided in Appendix C: Cost Estimate.

The cost for developing the concept plan improvements in their entirety is estimated to be approximately $12.3 million[1]. This is a preliminary Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) estimate only and is subject to change during the design phase. It should be assumed that the implementation of the plan may result in an increase in construction costs past the year 2025.



Final concept site plan

Table 4-1: Cost estimate

DAVID SMITH MEMORIAL PARK IMPROVEMENT COST ESTIMATE	
Site Preparation and Utilities	$720,000.00
All-Abilities Customized Playground with Nature Play Area	$2,800,000.00
Dog Park Update	$170,000.00
Standard Park Amenities and Updates	$3,200,000.00
Planting and Irrigation	$720,000.00
DIRECT CONSTRUCTION COST SUBTOTAL	**$7,610,000.00**
Mobilization and Bonding (10%)	$760,000.00
CONSTRUCTION COST SUBTOTAL	**$8,370,000.00**
Design, Engineering, and Unknown Factor Contingency (15%)	$2,500,000.00
Construction Contingency (30%)	$1,300,000.00
City Administration Fee, Permitting, and Fees (2%)	$170,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COST	**$12,340,000.00**

Please note: the cost estimate is rounded to the nearest hundredth for planning purposes.

1 Cost data for materials and labor were referenced from recently constructed public parks as well as recent bids from contractors. These referenced projects reflect a similar marketplace, size, and scope. All costs established within the Master Plan are calculated and adjusted to 2025 price index factors. An annual compound escalation rate of 4-5% should be added per year from 2025 to identify the total project cost. An escalation rate should be verified against the current Engineering News Record (ENR) for current escalation trends.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

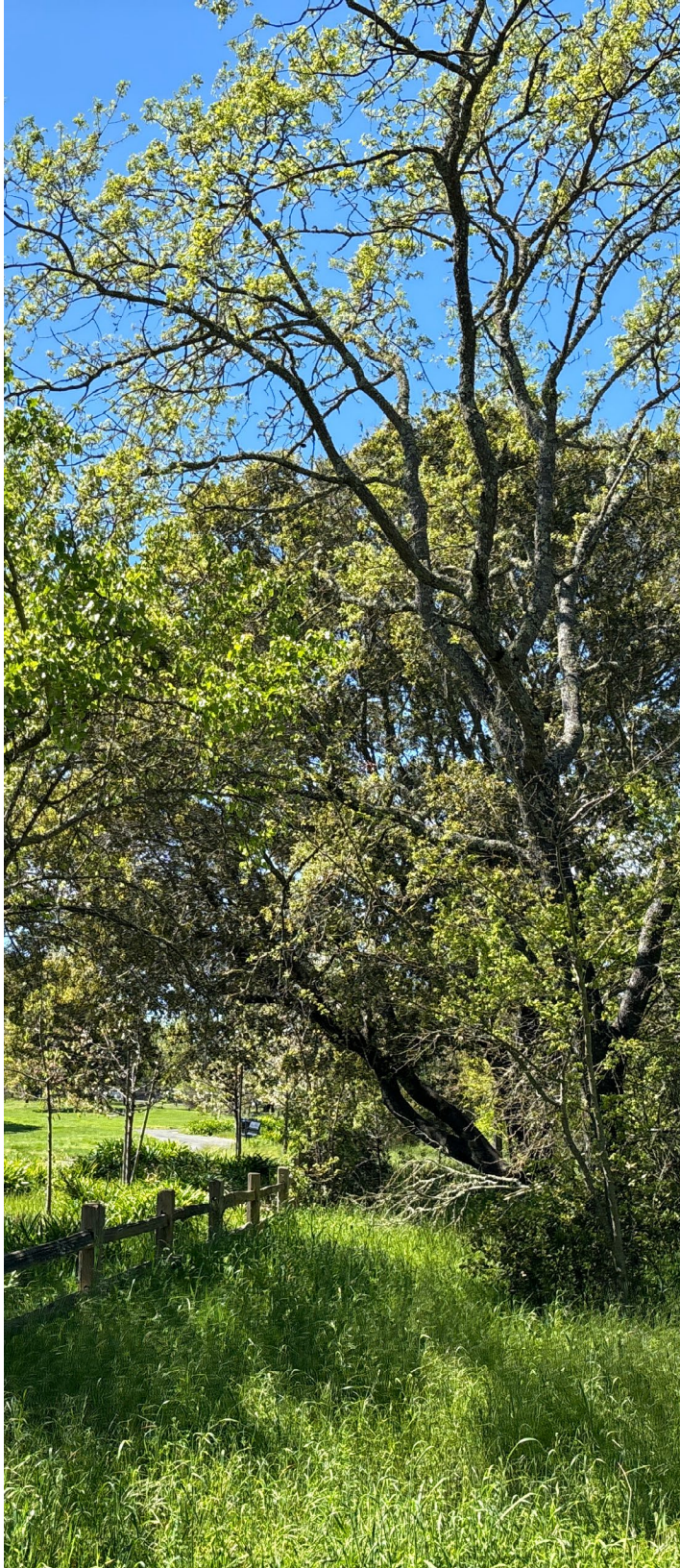
Funding improvements for the David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan depends upon a holistic and integrated funding approach. The Town of Windsor is advised to facilitate a funding strategy that maps out multiple sources and timing of the need with a combination of public and private sources, as well as careful considerations related to eligibility of uses (e.g., capital components, operations and maintenance costs) and its timing (e.g., one-time inflows or continuous/recurrent inflow).

The implementation of the improvements set forth in this Master Plan will be contingent on funding availability. A variety of potential funding options to support implementation should be evaluated at time of design and consider the following:

- Relevant grants which may be related to parks, recreation, all-abilities and inclusivity, Indigenous heritage, or other
- Partnerships with and Sponsorships with public agencies (federal, state, county, local) private organizations, and invested individuals
- Property assessments and special taxes
- Private developers and Park Impact Fees (if relevant and available opportunity arises)

HONORING LEGACY AND CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP THROUGH ONGOING COLLABORATION

To honor the legacy of David Smith and the cultural significance of the site, the Town of Windsor should continue to actively engage with the Smith family throughout refinement of the park's design, implementation, and long-term stewardship. Ongoing collaboration will help ensure that the park's improvements authentically reflect David Smith's life teachings and the Pomo traditions, values, and cultural heritage. This project should also serve as a foundation for building lasting relationships with Native communities, informing future parks and public space projects through continued engagement.





End of the David Smith Memorial Park Master Plan.