



# ANDERSON VALLEY COMMUNITY PARK INITIATIVE

April 2023

*Prepared for:*

**ANDERSON VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

*Prepared by Hope Multiplied, LLC. and Noor Dawood*

*Graphic Design by Martha Crawford*

**April 2023**



## **ANDERSON VALLEY COMMUNITY PARK INITIATIVE**

### **Phase II Park Development Plan**

Residents of the Anderson Valley created this Park Development Plan after several years of hard work, and many months of intensive planning. Through the almost entirely volunteer efforts of the local community members, including many professionals who lent their talents and resources, this underserved community captured our hearts and ideas in a way to be competitive for funding for this project. This is a project born of love for our community, a desire to invest in our youth, and a hope that together, with creativity and grit, we can take a mustard seed of hope and turn it into something beautiful.

While we have listed many on this acknowledgment, this does not nearly capture the many, many sponsors, donors, spouses, leaders, encouragers who have walked alongside us and supported us. Thank you for standing with us and cheering us on.

And I would be remiss if I did not tell you about the youth of Anderson Valley. This is why I am here. The students of Anderson Valley Jr./Sr. High Service-Learning Team have amazing spirit. These kids have worked so hard and have not given up. They have embraced a vision for something many of them will not see in their tenure at the school.

They are truly paying it forward. We should all retain some of that hopefulness as we go out into the world.

*-Jamie Umble, Resident of Philo, Mother of Skateboarders, and Nonprofit Consultant*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **ANDERSON VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD**

Bill Nayes, Valerie Hanelt, Kathleen McKenna, Steve Snyder, Francois Christen

## **ANDERSON VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Donna Pierson-Pugh, Elizabeth Jensen, Elizabeth Summers, Casandra Klein, Kathleen McKenna, Anya Farquhar

## **ANDERSON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Anderson Valley Unified School District Board

Louise Simson, Superintendent

Noor Dawood, Service Learning Team Leader & AV Skatepark Project Program Manager

Michelle Regala, Service Learning Team Assistant

Ananda Mayne, Service Learning Team student leader

Aster Arbanovella, Service Learning Team student leader

Kellie Crisman, Service Learning Team student leader

Anderson Valley Jr./Sr. High School Service Learning Team Students

## **PARK PLANNING ADVISORY VOLUNTEERS**

Sash Williams, Civil Engineer, Williams Associates Engineering

Martha Crawford, Creative Lead and Consulting Artist, MCC Design

Jamie Umble, Nonprofit Consultant, Hope Multiplied LLC

Angela DeWitt, Operations Assistant, AV Volunteer Fire Department

Johnny Schmidt, Proprietor and Designer, Boonville Hotel & Restaurant

Alex Korn, Architect, Catamount Design

Pam Callaghan, Horticulturist and Landscape Designer & Manager

Linda MacElwee, Coordinator, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Tyler Pearson, Civil Engineer, Cornerstone Civil Design

Mike Greenwald, CEO, Frontier Skateparks

*And the many other parents, community members and professionals who have contributed their time and guidance. Thank you!*

# PARK MAP

Interpretive history signage  
Discovery trail signs  
Native plant signs



Community Pavilion and Kitchen



Mosaic tiled Garbage & recycling bin



Shade Structure with wooden benches in seating area 1

Drinking fountain



Drinking fountain



ADA access to AVHC  
Existing ADA Pathway

Park Boundary



Skatepark viewing and seating area 1

Skatepark viewing and seating area 2

Park entrance from High School ADA pathway

Emergency Services Access

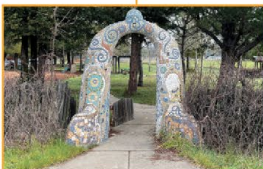


Existing main playground

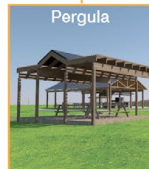
Existing mature trees

Park Boundary

EXISTING ENTRANCE  
Mosaic archway  
by Rebecca Johnson



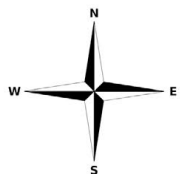
Pergola



Future bathroom

SKATEPARK ENTRANCE:

1. Mosaic stools
2. Welcome wall
3. Donor wall
4. Native plant landscaping
5. Mosaic garbage bin



## BACKGROUND

**THE ANDERSON VALLEY COMMUNITY PARK INITIATIVE** is a ten-year, coordinated plan to enhance gathering and recreational opportunities for the underserved Anderson Valley community. The purpose of this plan is to showcase the initiative, with a focus on Phase II developments proposed for the CalTrans Clean California Local Grant Program. This project reflects input from local recreation leaders, students, teachers, parents, professionals, artists and residents. Recognizing the critical need for greater public recreation opportunities, local citizens have given many hundreds of volunteer hours to develop this vision.

Anderson Valley youth are the driving force behind this initiative. Motivated by the everyday experience of limited public space to spend time with friends and few options for non-competitive recreation, AV students initiated a project to bring a skatepark to Boonville. They have been determined, consistent and far-sighted in this effort. The students' public campaign has generated significant energy and enthusiasm for investing in recreation and public space in Anderson Valley.

This new wave of student engagement was fortuitously timed with the Anderson Valley Community Services District (AVCSD) Recreation Committee's newly launched initiative to enhance the AV Community Park. The AVCSD formally embraced the AV Skatepark Project as part of that effort, this plan is the result of that partnership.



*Top left to right:* SLT students at skatepark site with Frontier Skateparks designer. SLT students line up to speak at school board meeting regarding park property transfer. Preparations for a volunteer community work day at the park.



**ANDERSON VALLEY** is an unincorporated community defined by the 315 square miles of the Navarro River Watershed. AV includes the towns of Boonville, Navarro, Philo and Yorkville, with a total population of 3,582 (2020 census). Our community is underserved, as defined by the following characteristics:

- **RURAL:** The vast majority of land in Anderson Valley is zoned for agricultural or timber harvesting purposes, with 8,711 acres of land used for crop production. Agriculture is the leading employment sector. The population density for Anderson Valley is 11.9 people per square mile, with the exception of central Boonville.
- **LOW-INCOME:** According to the 2021 Census ACS Report, the median household income in Anderson Valley was \$38,563, well below the state average. Over 20% of residents live below the poverty line. The AV school district population is markedly lower income than the general population, with 78% of the current High School student population eligible for free lunch.
- **IMMIGRANTS:** A large majority of students in AV schools are children of immigrants, almost entirely from rural regions in Mexico. 81% of students enrolled in the Jr/Sr High are of Hispanic/Latino ethnic background; 77% of Elementary students are of Hispanic background; and 65% are classified as English Language learners.
- **MIGRANT FARMWORKERS:** 10% of current AVUSD students are part of the Migrant Education Program, with parents officially designated as migrant agricultural workers.
- **LOW EDUCATION BACKGROUND:** 31% of parents of current AV High parents have a high school diploma, and only 6% graduated from college.
- **UNDER RESOURCED:** Because of its isolated rural location, Anderson Valley lacks many services that are taken for granted in larger communities. For example, while primary health care is available at the AV Health Clinic, the nearest hospital is in Ukiah, 45 minutes away. The public transportation offered is a single round trip to Ukiah, leaving AV at 10:00 am and returning at 4:00 pm. Unfortunately, Anderson Valley offers few recreational or entertainment activities to provide youth with positive alternatives: one museum open only on the weekend; no music or theater programs; and few enrichment opportunities outside of school district after-school programs. Anderson Valley ranks “Low” on the Child Opportunity Index, a national program assessing “conditions that children need to grow and thrive.”



*Top left to right:*  
 Present day playground.  
 Aerial view of park and valley beyond.  
 Park entrance from Airport Rd, featuring mosaic archway.

**THE ANDERSON VALLEY COMMUNITY PARK** is the product of more than 40 years of community volunteerism by AV community members who gave countless hours pursuing grants and laboring to create and maintain this vital community resource. Various park beautification and infrastructure projects have been spearheaded by AV artists, builders and parents over the years, including a mosaic entrance arch (shown on cover), various cob structures, a wooden boat play structure and a cement path connecting play areas. Volunteer time and energy has sustained this community park. The park sits on 2.23 acres of property that has been owned by Anderson Valley Unified School District (AVUSD), and is in the final stages of being transferred to the Anderson Valley Community Services District. The park was initially developed around 1980 by La Comunidad Mexicana, an AV community group focused on supporting the local Latino community, with 501(c)3 “Sueño Latino” taking over park management in 2001. Community Park oversight has shifted between different community groups, at times overseen by young parent groups and the Anderson Valley Community Services District (AVCSD) Recreation Committee.

In 2020, the AVCSD initiated planning for California Per Capita funding, allocated for recreation development, and subsequently formalized its responsibility for the park by entering into a 30-year use agreement for the park with AVUSD.



In 2022, the AV Service Learning Team, an after-school leadership group that empowers 7th-12th grade students to make positive change in the community, partnered with the AVCSD to develop a skatepark in Boonville. They identified the empty acre contiguous to the park as an ideal location for the project. However, the endeavor faced insurmountable hurdles if pursued on School District land. The students and AVCSD consequently began a joint effort to transfer the park property from AVUSD to AVCSD hands, launching a public support campaign and engaging in a series of school board presentations, public meetings, and ongoing discussions with the Superintendent and School Board members. On November 9th, 2022, the AVUSD voted unanimously in favor of transferring the AV Community Park property (with additional skatepark site extension) to the AVCSD, at a price of one dollar, for the explicit purpose of recreation development. The property transfer is in its final stages of completion, with Redwood Title Company scheduled to record the grant deed on May 15th, 2023.



*Left to right:*  
SLT teacher speaks regarding skatepark development at school board meeting on November 8, 2023.  
Current undeveloped stretch of the park. Students sell AV Skatepark Project merchandise.  
SLT students present skatepark proposal to CSD Recreation Committee in April 2022.  
AV parent speaks to school board about importance of skatepark development for youth.  
Community members pack the room at the November 8th, 2023 school board meeting.

**THE VITAL ROLE OF THIS PARTICULAR PARK** in this particular community cannot be overstated. While Anderson Valley is home to two state parks and two county parks (both of which are undeveloped and not centrally located), this community park is a critical and unique resource in that it serves as:

- The only outdoor gathering space in AV that is open to the public without charge
- The only public recreation space within walking distance of the Jr./Sr. High School
- The only playground in AV, besides recess yards on the Elementary School campus
- Furthermore, the park's location between AV High School and AV Health Center, two central community resources, makes it a natural gathering space and hub for community recreation activities.

Renewed attention and energy to revitalize and further develop the AV Community Park has been spurred by these impactful events:

**CA PER CAPITA ALLOCATION** In 2019, the AVCSD was allocated \$177,952 of CA Per Capita funding to improve recreation opportunities in AV. The AVCSD seized this opportunity to invest in vital infrastructure for the AV Community Park, principally a parking lot and ADA access to enable safer and more convenient access.

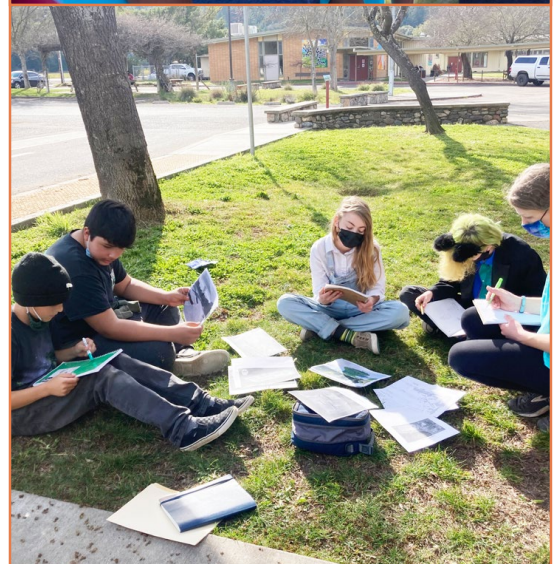
**COVID-19** A new wave of community park usage by local families began during the global pandemic, with families desperate to get children out of the house and in an open, safe space to play. Since then, park usage by local families has remained high, and families have voiced a desire for additional developments and amenities.



*Left to right:*  
Child looks upon future skatepark site.  
Looking east toward skatepark site from Airport Rd.

**STUDENT INITIATIVE FOR SKATEPARK DEVELOPMENT** Students have played a central role in this renewed effort to invest in recreation for the AV community. In 2021, students on the AV Service Learning Team began a public initiative to develop a skatepark in Boonville, and public enthusiasm and support for the project has been tremendous. The students have:

- Raised more than \$14,000 in community donations.
- Gathered 210 petition signatures.
- Received 15 letters of support from local businesses.
- Had more than 10 articles published in the widely-distributed Anderson Valley Advertiser.
- Been selected by the AV Winegrowers Association as this year's sole beneficiary of the Pinot Fest silent auction (anticipated to raise around \$10,000).
- Been awarded grants by AV Education Foundation, AV Arts Counsel and Mendocino Community Foundation.



Left to right:  
Community meeting flier designed by student Ananda Mayne.  
SLT students solicit petition signatures in support of skatepark development.  
SLT students discuss potential skatepark designs.

**COMMUNITY PARK PROPERTY TRANSFER FROM AVUSD TO CSD** As noted above, momentum behind students' Anderson Valley Skatepark Project compelled the AVUSD School Board to sell the park property to the AVCSD for one dollar. The transfer means greater potential for pursuing significant development projects in the Community Park, since the AVCSD now has autonomy over development and projects will no longer be subject to review by the Division of the State Architect (and thus costs and timelines are vastly reduced).

Increased attention to and enthusiasm for the Community Park has also drawn the interest of local philanthropists. Recognizing the importance of the park for the AV community, a local grandmother of children who frequent the park has donated two \$25,000 grants for a total of \$50,000 to the AVCSD for the purpose of park development. The donation is being administered by the California Endowment, disbursed over two years (2022 and 2023).



*Left to right:  
Existing park with new proposed park boundary.  
Looking south to proposed site for the Skate Park*

**STUDENTS** on the AV Jr/Sr High School Service Learning Team (SLT) began exploring the possibility of a Boonville skatepark in Spring 2021. Since then, SLT students have been directly involved in nearly every aspect of skatepark development, and have completed the following activities:

- **Designed marketing materials** for the skatepark project.
- **Developed and gave public presentations** that were pivotal in garnering AVCSD support and compelling the AVUSD School Board to transfer AV Community Park property for skatepark development.
- **Started a business** to receive custom screen printing orders from the community, to benefit the skatepark project
- **Students screen print** custom AV Skatepark Project t-shirts and totes, and also hand-press custom buttons, all of which are for sale online and at events as an ongoing fundraiser for the project.
- **Visited the CA Capitol** in March 2023 to discuss their skatepark project with Assemblymember Jim Wood and Senator Mike McGuire. Both representatives were moved by the importance of this project and offered their support.



Top left to right:

Skatepark logo designed by 9th grade student Ananda Mayne.

SLT students prepare to sell AV Skatepark Project merchandise.

Junior high students learn to screen print t-shirts.

Students work together to make buttons during weekly SLT session.

Students meet Assemblyman Wood and meet Senator McGuire to discuss their skatepark project and school district needs.

SLT students pose in front of the State Capitol.

# ANDERSON VALLEY COMMUNITY PARK INITIATIVE

## PLANNING PROCESS

The Anderson Valley Community Park Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Anderson Valley Community Services District (AVCSD) Parks and Recreation Committee and the Anderson Valley Service Learning Team (SLT). Focused planning for this initiative began in 2020, when the AVCSD Recreation Committee became aware of its eligibility for CA Per Capita funding for community recreation development projects. The planning scope has since expanded, with AVCSD formally partnering with students' AV Skatepark Project in April 2022, and the award of a large community donation (\$50,000 over two years) from a local grandmother via the California Endowment in 2022 and 2023.

Since 2020, the various planning groups have met regularly, for planning and coordination specific to this initiative, including weekly AVCSD park planning meetings, weekly Service Learning Team student meetings and monthly joint meetings for collaboration. Planning decisions have been guided by priorities voiced by the Anderson Valley community. Public input was gathered through numerous public feedback and design meetings, as well as ongoing surveys conducted digitally and in person during busy park hours.



Community members gather to brainstorm potential skatepark design.

The AV Community Park Development Initiative is planned to be completed in three phases over ten years, and will include the following developments:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PHASE I</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 2020 - August 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Per Capita &amp; Local Fundraising</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PHASE II</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>September 2024 - June 2026</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proposed for Clean CA Grant</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PHASE III</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 2026 - August 2030</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Local Fundraising</p>
<p><i>Completed since Dec 2021:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New, ADA-compliant off-road parking area (design &amp; construction)</li> <li>• Playground inspection Mendocino County Office of Education</li> <li>• Removal of unsafe play equipment</li> <li>• Repaired or replaced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tetherball equipment</li> <li>• Wooden boat play structure</li> <li>• Shade cloth over wooden arbor</li> <li>• Child-sized picnic table</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Geotechnical survey</li> <li>• Boundary survey</li> <li>• Architectural site plan</li> <li>• Skatepark custom design</li> <li>• Stormwater drainage survey</li> <li>• Preliminary drainage and bioswale plan</li> </ul> <p><i>Projects underway, to be completed by September 2023:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of 4 picnic tables</li> <li>• Parking lot improvements</li> <li>• New park benches along paths (sponsored by local community groups)</li> <li>• Balance beam</li> <li>• Musical play elements</li> <li>• New playhouse extension for existing boat structure</li> <li>• New monkey bars</li> <li>• Play structure repairs</li> <li>• Airport compliance review</li> <li>• New custom gate for archway entrance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community skatepark, including shaded skatepark viewing areas, benches and various art elements</li> <li>• Community pavilion and kitchen, including 10 picnic tables</li> <li>• Bioswale construction</li> <li>• Greenflush bathroom</li> <li>• Revitalized park entrances</li> <li>• Trash and recycling receptacles</li> <li>• New fencing &amp; gates</li> <li>• Drinking fountains</li> <li>• Additional walkways (concrete and permeable)</li> <li>• Landscaping with native plants (installation of plantings and irrigation)</li> <li>• Revitalized playground picnic areas (including new pergolas)</li> <li>• 12 picnic benches</li> <li>• Interpretative and wayfinding signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pizza Oven</li> <li>• Additional Playground Equipment</li> <li>• Volleyball Court</li> <li>• Exercise pad</li> <li>• Enclosed garbage shed</li> <li>• Additional landscaping and trees</li> <li>• Climbing Boulder</li> <li>• Bathroom plumbing when public water system is completed</li> <li>• Septic infrastructure and bathroom conversion when public sewage system is completed</li> <li>• Native american heritage interpretive signage, created in collaboration with the local pomo community</li> <li>• Mosaic backsplash in community kitchen</li> </ul>

## PHASE II PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

With Phase I nearly complete, the focal point of this plan is to provide a detailed overview of proposed Phase II improvements. We are applying for the CalTrans Clean California Local Grant Program to cover the cost of these projects. Clean CA Grant awards will be announced in September 2023. If we are fortunate enough to receive the grant, funds will be released in March 2024 and all projects will be completed by June 2026.

### COMMUNITY SKATEPARK

As detailed above, student demand inspired the AV Skatepark Project, and youth involvement has been at the forefront of advancing the endeavor. The strong motivation and sense of urgency pushing this project forward stems from a scarcity of both public recreation and community connection opportunities available to AV youth. There are currently:

- No public gathering spaces within a two mile radius of the schools, besides the AV Community Park – which is only equipped to provide recreation for toddlers and has little shaded seating.
- Virtually no opportunities in Anderson Valley for youth to engage in free, non-competitive, healthy recreation, and even seasonal fee-based recreation options can be counted on one hand.

**THE ABSENCE OF SUCH PUBLIC SPACES** encourages youth to congregate in less visible areas (e.g. under bridges, in empty houses or cars), and our kids are left with little opportunity to cultivate healthy, meaningful relationships outside of school. Further, the absence of recreation opportunities means that youth are more idle, with fewer chances to engage in activities that support mental and physical well-being.

Development of a skatepark would go a long way to address these critical needs by accomplishing the following:

- Inspire AV youth to be more active
- Provide youth with a new interest with very low barrier to entry
- Foster healthy, cross-generational community connection, and a sense of belonging
- Promote mental and emotional well-being
- Give youth a sense of purpose and personal pride

In April 2022, the AVCS D enthusiastically agreed to partner with the AV Service Learning Team (SLT) students' skatepark mission by becoming the fiscal sponsor for the project and devoting \$8,000 in recreation funds towards the project. Since then, the two groups have worked in concert to move the project forward, including a successful effort to transfer the skatepark site (and entire Community Park) from AVUSD to AVCS D ownership.



## CUSTOM DESIGN

AV Service Learning Team students, their facilitators, and a team of committed AV Skatepark Project volunteers (including a licensed engineer, architect, contractor and graphic designer) have worked together to complete the initial stages of project planning to inform construction. We contracted design-build firm Frontier Skateparks to create a custom design of our community skatepark tailored to community preferences and our specific site characteristics.



*Top left to right:*  
SLT students measure skatepark site dimensions.  
Community members sketch and model potential skatepark designs.  
Students walk skatepark site with landscapers.

The design process entailed:

- Completion of stormwater drainage and topographic surveys, and preliminary drainage and grading plan.
- Completion of geotechnical survey.
- Development of scaled site plan.
- Two community skatepark design meetings:
  - In Community Design Meeting #1, Frontier designers interacted with AV students and community members to explore future users' preferences and ideas through discussion, sketches and clay modeling.
  - In Community Design Meeting #2, Frontier designers presented two draft skatepark designs, and gathered community preferences and detailed feedback for modifications.
- Coordination with AV emergency services chief Andres Avila, who worked with Frontier Skatepark designers to ensure optimal emergency services access.
- Coordination with Mendocino County Building & Planning Department to ensure compliance with county code requirements.

The community design process culminated with a 3-D rendering of our 12,500 sq ft custom-designed skatepark, set in its permanent location, and a more precise cost estimate for construction.



Park rendering by Justin Le.

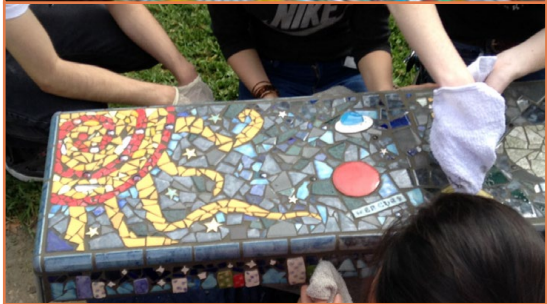
## SKATEPARK SEATING AREAS

Community skatepark design meeting attendees were also engaged in the design of seating areas around the skatepark. Based on that input, we have planned the following seating areas:

- **A 25'X25' COVERED VIEWING AREA** with permeable surfacing, raised 2.5' upon a gently sloping berm to maximize skatepark access and viewing. The area will include a drinking fountain and five locally built triangle wooden benches to comfortably seat more people than a conventional bench.
- **A LONG CEMENT BENCH** along the southwest edge of the park, with shade covering at south end.
- **TWO PERMEABLE AREAS** within the center of the skatepark, to include boulders, mosaic stools and hardy native plantings.



Park rendering by Justin Le.



## MOSAIC & TILE ART ELEMENTS AROUND SKATEPARK

AV Community Park Creative Lead Martha Crawford will work with local artists and Jr/Sr High students to design and create various unique mosaic and tile art elements throughout the skatepark area, as a continuation of the style and theme inspired by local artist Rebecca Johnson's mosaic tile entry arch (on cover). Projects include:

- Mosaic welcome wall
- Handmade donor acknowledgement tiles
- Mosaic stools
- Mosaic paneled garbage and recycling bins

## SKATEPARK SHADE STRUCTURES DESIGNED AND BUILT BY AV STUDENTS

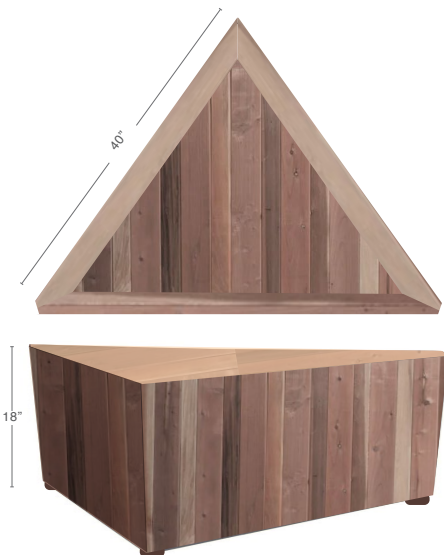
Local architect and general contractor Alex Korn will support students in designing and building two custom shade structures for skatepark seating areas. The process will feature four design workshops, including site visits, a site plan review, a collaborative design process and support for students in reading architectural and engineering plans. Alex will guide the building phase, including training in basic carpentry skills and how to build from a drawn plan.



Park rendering by Justin Le

## WOODEN BENCHES IN SKATEPARK VIEWING AREA

Five triangular wooden benches will be built locally and placed within the covered skatepark viewing area. The unique shape of each bench comfortably seats more people than a conventional bench, and makes for a dynamic and visually appealing social space.



Renderings by Martha Crawford

## COMMUNITY PAVILION AND KITCHEN



Anderson Valley is void of public spaces for large group gatherings, and has no well-shaded options for a group of any size to use at no cost. Given the exceedingly long and hot summer season, shaded gathering space is a critical necessity for our community and will go a long way toward promoting community connection. The AVCSD received resounding requests for this development in community surveys, and various community groups – including the AV Fire Department and the AV Health Center – have asked for development of a large covered picnic space for the purpose of holding organizational gatherings and cook-outs, as well as healthy cooking demonstrations and classes.

We are planning a large, covered community pavilion, with community kitchen, to fill this need. The pavilion design includes:

1. Rustic pole barn style with open design
2. Galvalume roof material
3. Round poles to create better visual flow
4. 6:12 roof pitch with decorative truss design
5. 25' x 50' footprint surfaced with compacted base rock, a permeable and low-maintenance material
6. Community kitchen, including: two 12' concrete work counters; concrete island with grill bay insert, installed with Argentinian grill

Pavilion Site: Before



## BIOSWALE

A key feature of this development project is the installation of a bioswale, as a means for collecting and filtering runoff throughout the park, especially from the new 12,500 sq ft skatepark. **Poor drainage** at this site has been an ongoing problem, with standing water in large areas of the park in wet years.

We contracted Cornerstone Civil Design to develop the drainage and grading plan for the park, and will use the recommended bioswale as an opportunity to support native plants, educate about bioswale construction, and create a beautiful habitat for visitors to enjoy. A permeable path trail will follow the meandering bioswale and will include educational signage on the bioswale and native plantings, and their significance to the park design and ecology.



Top to bottom:  
Current poor drainage conditions in park.  
Bioswale rendering by Justin Le.  
Examples of interpretative signs.



## BATHROOM SERVICES



The number one request by all who use the park – especially families with young children – was bathroom facilities. There is currently a single porta-potty available, and though well-maintained, it is not practical for families with young children and will not be adequate to support future increased park usage.

A public water and sewage system is currently in the works for this region of the Valley, but it will not be complete until several years into the future. We plan to install a Green Flush vault bathroom system, which is designed to easily convert to a plumbed system in the future. This system features:

1. Concrete block construction with covered porch
2. ADA accessible flush toilet
3. Comparable experience to regular plumbed toilet
4. Uses water catchment system
5. Touchless bathroom fixtures
6. Spacious bathroom space to accommodate families with children
7. Baby changing table
8. Solar powered interior and exterior lights and water heater
9. Convertible to permanent water & sewer

Porta-potty Site: Before







## RENOVATION OF EXISTING MOSAIC ARCHWAY

Anderson Valley artist Rebecca Johnson designed and installed the unique mosaic entranceway arch in the early 2000s, with the help of high school student intern Renee Ochoa. Though still beautiful, the arch requires repair and enhancement of the surrounding landscape, to celebrate this special community piece.

*Images top to bottom:*  
Airport road playground present day.

Existing entrance to park; mosaic archway by Rebecca Johnson.

Rendering of renovated park entrance with Rebecca Johnson's new gate design by Martha Crawford.



## SKATEPARK WELCOME WALL AND DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TILES

Park Creative Director Martha Crawford will guide Jr./Sr. High students in designing and creating a mosaic welcome wall at the skatepark entrance. One section of this wall will be reserved for donor acknowledgement tiles that will be hand-made by AV high school art students.



Sample skatepark entrance design  
and detail of wall  
by Martha Crawford



## TRASH AND RECYCLING RECEPTACLES

We will increase trash and recycling stations from one to four locations in the park, to meet anticipated increased park usage. We have selected bins with cement faces that will be mosaiced by students to add beauty and a community touch to the park. Importantly, involving students in this project is likely to increase student awareness regarding the importance of not littering and encourage use of these receptacles into the future.

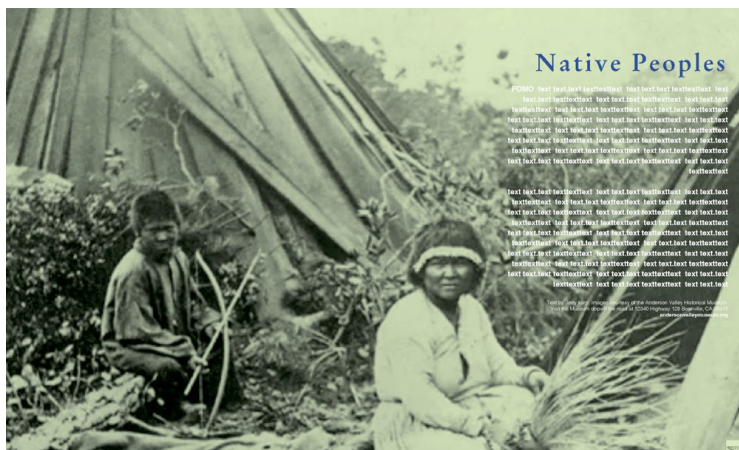
Mosaic faces for the trash bins will be completed as part of the Art in the Park project, guided by Park Creative Director Martha Crawford. Martha will work with students to design and create the mosaic under her instruction, inspired by the *Keeping Oakland Beautiful* Program.

Top to bottom:  
Oakland's Trash Can Mosaics,  
Keeping Oakland Beautiful Program

## INTERPRETATIVE AND WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

Interpretive and wayfinding signage will be installed throughout the park. We are planning signage to highlight:

- Native plants: Etched wood identification signs.
- Native American cultural heritage: Signs to teach about and honor local Pomo who previously lived in this valley.
- Tactile fauna panels: Dimensional panels of local animal tracks provide a tactile experience for children – and park users of all ages.
- Ecology education: Signs to teach the importance of the bioswale for reducing pollution and improving water quality through stormwater runoff management.
- Artistic displays: Showcase of local artists and techniques for art elements.
- Wayfinding signage: Wayfinding signage for navigation and ADA access



Right top to bottom:  
Ceramic relief tiles on the Muir Beach bridge, CA,  
unknown artist  
Middle left and bottom: Sample native plant signs, and  
interpretive signs by Martha Crawford

## FENCES AND GATES



Fencing: Before



There is currently a 6-foot chain link fence along most of the border separating the park from Airport Road, as well as a small picket fence along another boundary section. Both fences are in need of replacement. Further, the new parking lot currently lacks fencing to separate the playground area from parking lot traffic.

We plan to take the following steps to improve safety for young children, as well as to create a more beautiful and welcoming feel for park users:

1. Replace perimeter fencing with a four-foot stretched non-climb welded wire fence, with pressure-treated wooden posts.
2. Add new fencing to separate the new parking lot from the areas where young children play.
3. Add new gates at three locations in the park (a fourth gate will be added in Summer 2023, as part of Phase I park developments).

## DRINKING FOUNTAINS



Water Spigot: Before



There is currently no drinking water available at the Community Park. This is a critical necessity for children and their families who use the park and will be especially vital as the skatepark and other active recreation options are developed. Potable water is currently plumbed to the site, but is not accessible for drinking.

We will be installing two drinking fountains in the park, each with bubblers at two levels to accommodate children and individuals in wheelchairs. Fountains will be installed at opposite ends of the park: one will be located near the skatepark viewing area and the other beside the park entrance closest to the Health Center.

# FUTURE STEWARDSHIP OF AV COMMUNITY PARK

## MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The AVCSD Recreation Committee is committed to maintaining the park to a high standard. Our objective is to ensure the park and park facilities are safe, clean, accessible, and aesthetically pleasing for all park visitors.

Park maintenance is currently supported through a combination of ongoing tax revenue, annual donations from local organizations, and volunteerism. Since the AVCSD assumed formal responsibility of the park in 2021, the Recreation Committee has been steadily working to improve park conditions by making repairs and equipment replacements, adding a porta-potty with regular servicing and increasing mowing and trash collection services.

We have made various thoughtful choices in our proposed development plan to reduce maintenance necessities and increase longevity, such as using hardy, drought-tolerant native plants and the most durable building materials at every turn. Nonetheless, as new developments take place and park usage increases, we are prepared for exponential increases in park maintenance necessities. Accordingly, the AVCSD plans to augment its existing maintenance services by:

- Contracting Solid Waste Services of Willits for weekly trash pick-up service
- Hiring a designated AVCSD employee to carry out the following ongoing park maintenance tasks:
  - Weekly park inspection.
  - Trash disposal (transfer to larger receptacle for pick-up service) two times per week, or more depending on necessity
  - Port-a-Potty servicing two times per month, or weekly if necessary during high use periods.
  - Mowing three times per year.
  - Bathroom, pavilion and picnic area cleaning two times per week, or more depending on necessity.
  - Annual oil-sealing of exposed wood framing.
  - Biennial sealing for skatepark.
  - Additionally, specialized contractors will be hired to complete:
    - Equipment and structure repairs, as needed.
    - Biennial inspection of art elements and oversee annual repairs, in collaboration with original artists.
  - Care for drought-tolerant plantings, including: fall and spring weeding; light pruning; rodent control; compost and mulch application; string-trimming borders; and irrigation monitoring and repair.

The AVCSD currently spends \$3,000 per year on routine maintenance, and relies upon donations and volunteerism to cover repairs and replacements. With implementation of the developments proposed in this plan, we anticipate that the new overall average maintenance cost will be between \$16,000 to \$20,000 per year. The AVCSD and AV Skatepark Project have collaborated to chart additional funding sources to cover this significant increase. In 2023, the AV Community Park Initiative and AV Skatepark Project have been selected as beneficiaries in the AV Brewing Company Beer Fest non-profit benefit (projected to bring in \$5,000-\$10,000 projected income) and the AV Winegrowers' Association Pinot Festival benefit (\$10,000 projected income), in exchange for volunteer staffing for the events. We are optimistic that we will be selected for annual participation in these events. Additionally, there has been mounting public attention and enthusiasm for AV Community Park Initiative since its inception in 2021, and this energy will lend itself greatly to our fundraising efforts. In September 2021, we will be hosting our first annual Skatepark Community Fundraiser at the AV Brewing company, and we anticipate \$5,000 to \$10,000 in revenue toward park maintenance. We will also be soliciting donations via the Mendocino Community Foundation, from local philanthropists who are committed to investing in Anderson Valley's future. We are confident that a combination of these approaches will support all of our anticipated park maintenance needs, and sustain the park's beauty and functionality into the future.



Parent volunteers at *Love Your Park* community work day in 2019.

## CONCLUSION

**THE VISION** set forth by this plan is a park that supports a connected, vibrant, and active community. We can already see teens cheering on a beaming 5th-grader who has just pulled off her first Ollie, proud grandparents looking on from the shade; tricycles whizzing by, giggles flying, as soccer team members share celebratory hot dogs with the family picnicking across the pavilion; high school students streaming into the park from school along a lavender lined path; and a toddler quietly tracing his fingers along vibrant mosaic designs on the stool where his young mother sits, chatting with other parents.

In a post-COVID world, this outdoor, in-person, dynamic, community space offers so much that our community needs. Investing in this vision now means investing in the well-being of the Anderson Valley community for generations to come.

