

Lake County Record-Bee

Teens want a skatepark in Nice

Tuesday, March 28, 2006 -

Terre Logsdon - Record-Bee staff

LAKEPORT -- Young people on the Northshore are taking part in the process for developing Nice's parks, and they have some requests for their adult counterparts.

A survey of Nice's high school students completed recently by the county has found that teens are voting for a skateboard park and for open, grassy areas just to relax and hang out, which many adults want, too.

Andy Peterson, executive director for the county's redevelopment agency, is pleased with the park planning process, so far which has included one public meeting that allowed adults to express their ideas and a survey of youth and teens to assess their needs and wants.

The results from the first public meeting and the Nice teen survey were used by Foothill Associates, the consultants who are developing the plans for the county, to give the community options for the park designs.

Foothill Associates have come up with two scenarios for each park Hinman Square and the park on Hammond Avenue which are now available for review on Lake County's Web site, www.co.lake.ca.us. There, you can vote and give feedback on the designs; as of Monday, 18 people have posted feedback online.

Another public meeting is scheduled for April 12, which will incorporate feedback from the remaining youth surveys and the online survey.

The teens have said that the four most important things they want in a park are basketball courts, restrooms and a swimming pool, with a skatepark topping the list.

Peterson said the county will have to throw cold water on the pool idea, as pools are just too expensive to maintain.

Penny Dahl in the county administration office has been compiling the survey data. Dahl said that most teens, both girls and boys, want a space to legally ride a skateboard as well as their bicycles. She reported that some of the teens mentioned in the survey that they had been given tickets and fined before for riding their skateboards.

In true teen fashion, they also want to have a place for kids and toddlers to play away from them.

Dahl also said many commented that they wanted open, grassy areas where they could relax and hang out.

The final meeting to give feedback on the design for Nice parks is scheduled for 6 p.m. April 12 in the Robinson Rancheria conference room.

Contact Terre Logsdon at tlogsdon@record-bee.com.