



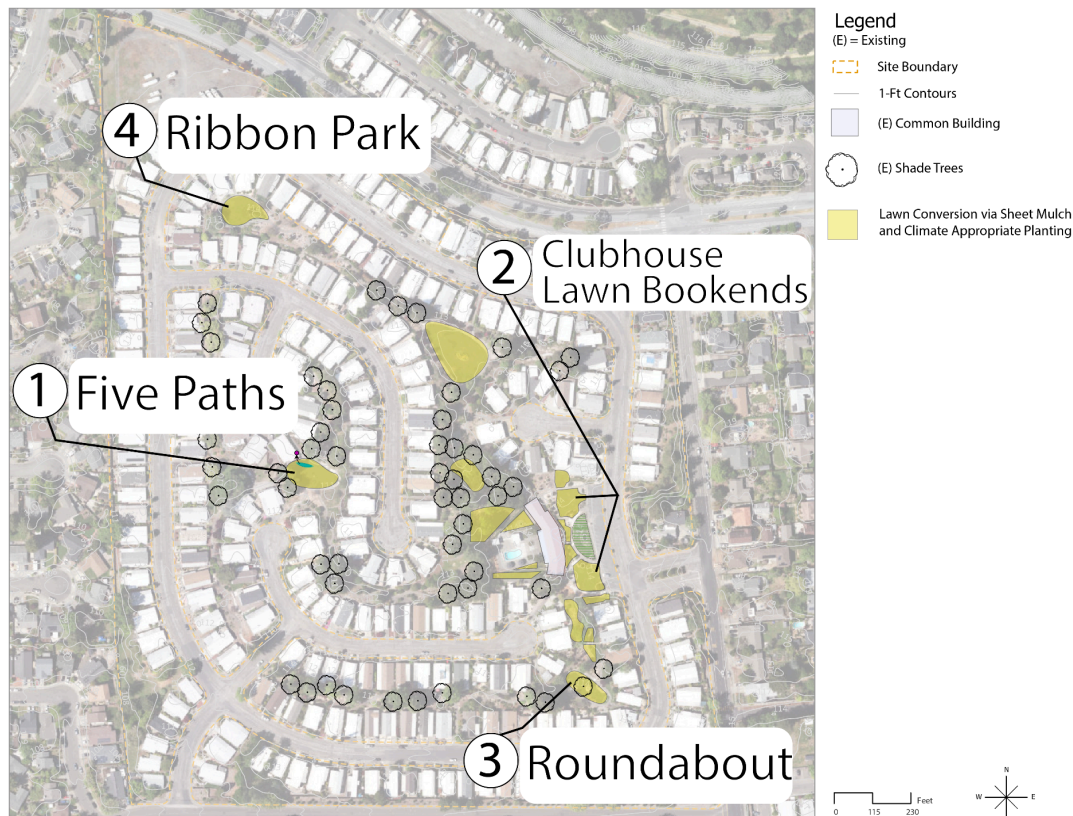
Reverence • Ripples • Relationships • Resilience

Valle Vista Community Engagement Findings Report

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Overview

On Saturday May 2nd 2026, Daily Acts hosted a Town Hall Listening Session at the Valle Vista Community Center with the purpose of understanding the residents' questions, values, and concerns regarding the proposed lawn conversion(s) on site. The four areas proposed for consideration were: Roundabout, 5 Path, Clubhouse Bookends, and Ribbon Park.



The following report summarizes key themes identified through the listening session and resident survey. This information is intended to inform and support the board in developing a scope of work proposal for residents that will conserve well-water, beautify the Valle Vista grounds, and reflect the desires and needs of the community.

[Complete Survey Results Spreadsheet](#)

Community Engaged

Listening Session participants: 47

Survey Responses: 37

Total Community Members Engaged: 51

Primary Findings

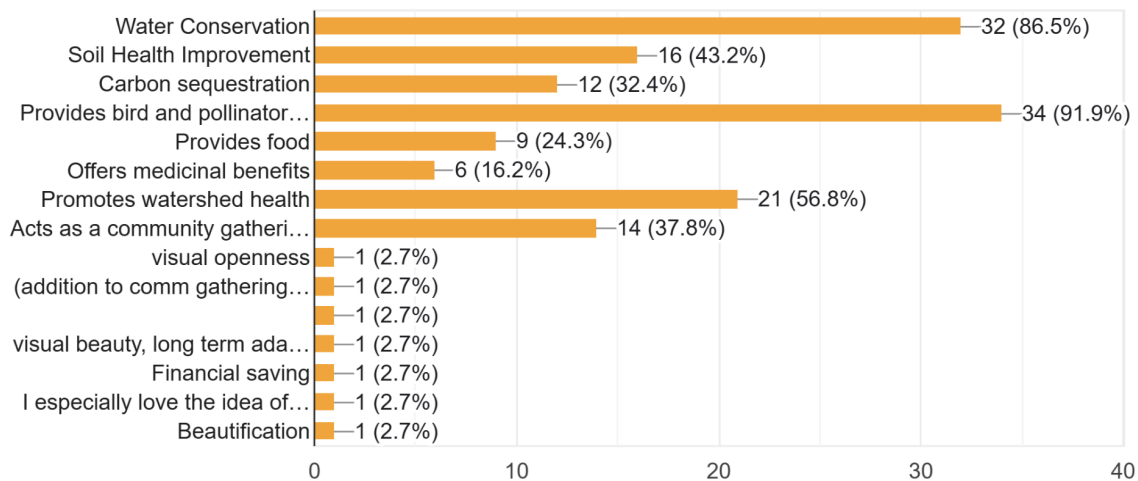
The Daily Acts team determined the following primary findings from our listening session and survey engagement:

- **The majority of participants support lawn conversion efforts**, particularly for water conservation and pollinator habitat creation
- Residents want to **maintain the beauty and the property value** of the grounds
- **Maintenance** was the most common concern, including questions regarding:
 - Long-term upkeep responsibilities
 - Landscape crew training
 - Weed management
 - Noise from maintenance equipment
- Several residents expressed interest in **preserving at least some lawn areas** for recreation, visual openness, and community gatherings
- **Most respondents expressed openness to converting additional lawn** areas beyond the four proposed pilot sites
- **Some residents expressed strong opposition** to removing lawn entirely, suggesting a reduced-scope or phased approach

Residents' Landscape Values

Of the following benefits, what do you value most in a garden? Choose as many as you'd like.

37 responses



Priority Transformation Zones

Roundabout

Overall Community Sentiment: Strongly supportive. We did not receive direct opposition to converting this area in survey responses or during the listening session.

Opportunities Identified

- Reduce water use in a highly visible lawn area
- Introduce native and pollinator-friendly landscaping
- Create a more ecologically beneficial communal space
- Improve watershed health near existing water infrastructure (well)

Concerns Raised

Few concerns were raised regarding this location. Residents generally viewed this as an appropriate starting point for lawn conversion. The only strong opposition came from those who opposed any /all conversion projects.

Representative Resident Feedback

- *“Take out the grass and create a lovely space to enjoy”*
- *“Eliminate the grass, replace with native plants.”*
- *“I like the notion of this being a garden because it is close to the well and the underground water.”*

Five Paths

Overall Community Sentiment: Mixed, but generally supportive. Residents expressed enthusiasm for reducing lawn area, while also emphasizing the importance of preserving openness, recreation, and community gathering functions.

Opportunities Identified

- Opportunity for a rain garden or bioswale to address seasonal flooding concerns
- Potential to incorporate low-growing native plants and pollinator habitat
- Possibility of adding pathways, seating, or gathering elements
- Strong interest in maintaining visual beauty while reducing irrigation demand

Concerns Raised

- Maintaining visual openness and meadow-like character of the area
- Preserving functionality for summer music events and recreation
- Questions regarding maintenance and long-term upkeep
- Concerns about taller plants impacting lines of sight or views
- Desires for pathways and accessibility to enter the space

Representative Resident Feedback

- *"In favor of it, but would not want to lose the function of summer's music venue"*
- *"A water/ rain garden seems logical for areas that flood"*
- *"During rainy season, there seems to be excess water in this area... plants could be native, bird-friendly and low maintenance."*
- *"My place looks out on this and I watch people come and sit on the edge to just look; 5 Paths is an important visual meadow. The openness needs to be maintained."*
- *"Wouldn't it be better to convert "Sunshine Circle" instead of this one because Sunshine is so open to sunlight & therefore a lawn needs more water than 5-Path as it has some shade?"*

Clubhouse Bookends

Overall Community Sentiment: Largely supportive. Most respondents viewed this area as appropriate for partial or full lawn conversion, particularly if the space remains visually welcoming and balanced.

Opportunities Identified

- Reduce irrigation demand in a prominent community location
- Incorporate flowering and low-growing plants to maintain visual appeal
- Improve habitat value while maintaining accessibility and openness
- Potential to blend ornamental and native landscaping styles

Concerns Raised

- Maintaining an inviting appearance near the clubhouse
- Preserving visual balance and curb appeal
- Questions regarding how much lawn, mulch, or hardscape would remain
- Interest in retaining roses

Representative Resident Feedback

- *"Yes, this is an ideal place to start the conversion."*
- *"Sound fine if plants are low and blooming"*
- *"Does removal change the look to less balanced??"*
- *"Leave lawns upfront at clubhouse. Replant the side with trees or drought-free plants."*

Ribbon Park

Overall Community Sentiment: Strongly supportive overall, with few concerns raised regarding conversion of this area

Opportunities Identified:

- Introduce drought-tolerant and low-water landscaping

- Expand pollinator and bird habitat
- Add shade trees, or integrate features like garden beds, pathways, and seating into design (although these can not be installed through this program's funding)

Concerns Raised

- Importance of considering adjacent residents and lines of sight
- Desire for attractive, year-round appearance and color
- Interest in ensuring the area remains accessible and welcoming

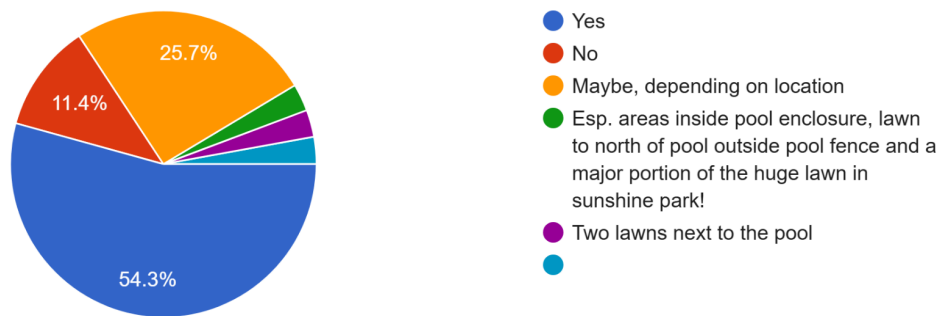
Representative Resident Feedback

- *"This is the furthest from the well and less underground water. Zero scaping, perhaps succulents or even a dog walk area."*
- *"We live in a desert and should only plant what can survive, with only rain."*
- *"to fruit or vegetation native plants for birds, etc. A shade trees with picnic area"*
- *"You should ask specifically the homes bordering this area"*

Potential Conversions Beyond Four Identified Zones

In addition to the four areas already proposed above, are you open to transforming more grass areas to gardens?

35 responses



The above chart indicates that 54.3% of participants are open to transforming more turf areas, 25% are open to the idea depending on location, and several respondents specifically mentioned the areas around the pool. **Due to this support, we propose that lawns around the pool, specifically north of the pool, be considered for conversion.** In total, these areas amount to 6,700 square feet of lawn which could be added to the proposed scope or converted in place of other proposed areas.

Key Concerns and Considerations

While overall support for lawn conversion was strong, residents consistently identified

four main considerations they felt would be important for long-term project success.

- 1) **Visual Character and Property Values** - Many residents emphasized the importance of preserving Valle Vista's attractive and welcoming appearance.

Common themes included:

- Desire for colorful and visually appealing plantings
- Maintaining openness and sightlines
- Avoiding landscapes perceived as "brown" or barren
- Preserving community character and property values
- Maintaining balance between lawn and garden spaces

Representative Resident Feedback

- *"We need color besides brown."*
 - *"We need to come up with a compromise that will enable us to take advantage of the free landscaping proposed while maintaining property values."*
 - *"Keeping it inviting looking — the lush green grass is inviting."*
- **Desire to Preserve Some Lawn Areas** - Although many residents supported reducing lawn overall, several respondents expressed interest in retaining some grass areas for recreation, visual openness, gatherings, and events. If the four priority zones are pursued, Valle Vista would still maintain over half of its existing lawn.

Representative Resident Feedback

- *"We need at least one good area of grass."*
- *"Leave one area grass. Change others."*
- *"Would not want to lose the function of summer's music venue."*

- 2) **Accessibility and Usability Considerations** -Some residents emphasized the importance of ensuring future designs remain accessible, walkable, and usable for older adults.

Suggestions Included:

- ADA-accessible pathways
- Seating areas and picnic spaces
- Walking paths through gardens
- Maintaining clear visibility

Representative Resident Feedback

- *"Paved pathways should be graded to street level for ADA accessibility. No curbs!"*
- *"A meandering path to walk through this large expanse and enjoy the new plantings and possible seating to observe wildlife."*

- 3) **Long-Term Maintenance** - Maintenance was the most frequently discussed concern across both the survey and listening session.

Residents raised questions regarding:

- Who will maintain the converted areas
- Whether landscaping crews will receive native plant training

- Weed management and long-term upkeep
- Whether gardens may appear overgrown or neglected
- Noise associated with leaf blowers and landscaping equipment

Representative Resident Feedback

- *Maintenance may be somewhat lacking — landscaping companies rarely do specific hand weeding.”*
- *“How are we going to create more habitat and the free movement of self-seeding wild plants with our hired gardeners?”*
- *“Landscape crew is NOISY! No leaf blowers, please.”*
- *“When I asked our gardeners to not cut down California Poppies...,not yet blooming, they told me they didn't know what poppy plants looked like (???) and were unwilling to walk ten feet with me to be shown. How are we going to create more habitat and the free movement of self seeding wild plants with our hired gardeners? Do people understand that a "wild " garden could look ratty part of the time ? Will we have gardeners trained in this kind of habitat ? Will we be able to let things bloom and seed for reproduction?”*

Maintenance Considerations

A recurring theme throughout community engagement was the importance of long-term maintenance planning. Residents frequently asked who would maintain the gardens, how weeds would be managed, and whether the converted landscapes would remain visually attractive over time.

Daily Acts designs lawn conversion projects to reduce long-term water use and heavy maintenance needs compared to traditional turf grass. However, converted landscapes still require ongoing stewardship to remain healthy, functional, and visually appealing. In general, maintenance needs are expected to shift rather than disappear, and will transition away from regular, frequent mowing and high irrigation demand towards landscape care that is more seasonal in nature.

As mentioned, Daily Acts is unable to support ongoing maintenance of projects installed through our Grass to Gardens Program. To build understanding around maintenance needs for these diverse water-wise landscapes see more details below.

Key Maintenance Tasks and Frequency:

- Seasonal weeding: Monthly / As Needed
- Seasonal pruning and plant care: Spring / Fall / As Needed
- Irrigation inspections: Annually / Seasonally
- Irrigation timer adjustments: Change of seasons
- Mulch replenishment: Every 1–2 years / As Needed
- Plant replacement: As Needed
- Stormwater feature maintenance: Seasonal / After storms
- Monitoring for drainage or erosion issues: Seasonal

Available Daily Acts Support:

PO Box 293, Petaluma, CA 94953 • 707.789.9664 • www.dailyacts.org • moreinfo@dailyacts.org

- Training for existing maintenance staff
- Maintenance Guides
- Educational resources regarding ecological landscape care
- Maintenance contractor referrals

Conclusion

Based on community engagement findings, **Daily Acts recommends that the Board consider proceeding with conversion of the 4 identified priority areas:**

1. Roundabout: 4,100 sq ft
2. Five Paths: 4,870 sq ft
3. Clubhouse Bookend: 6,475 sq ft
4. Ribbon Park: 4,230 sq ft

Collectively, these areas account for approximately **19,675 square feet** of the roughly 55,000 square feet of existing lawn at Valle Vista. If implemented, these projects are estimated to reduce annual water usage by approximately **553,000 gallons per year**.

In addition to the four proposed pilot zones, several residents expressed interest in converting lawn areas surrounding the pool. This area could be considered as an alternative for other identified lawns or addition to the existing proposed scope listed above.

Community feedback indicated broad support for reducing lawn areas in favor of more drought-tolerant and habitat-supporting landscapes, particularly when designs maintain visual openness, beauty, and usability. Residents consistently emphasized the importance of attractive plantings, clear sightlines, and thoughtful long-term maintenance.

To help address these concerns, future landscape designs could incorporate low-growing native plants and grasses, flowering and visually appealing species, open sightlines and gathering spaces, and lower-maintenance plants.

At the same time, community feedback also highlighted important questions regarding long-term maintenance, including weeding, pruning, irrigation, and overall landscape appearance. **For this reason, Daily Acts encourages the Board to carefully review the maintenance considerations and example maintenance guides provided as part of this report when determining final project scope and feasibility.**

A phased or reduced-scope approach may also offer value in supporting a successful transition, allowing the community to evaluate maintenance needs, aesthetics, and overall project performance over time. Note, that current funding is only available through June 2027 and due to capacity, sites can only be mobilized once during this period.