



## CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN ALTERNATIVES SURVEY

The Clear Lake State Park General Plan Draft Concept Alternatives Survey was administered online for approximately three weeks, from July 25th to August 15th, 2025. The survey was designed to complement feedback received during the project's second-in-person workshop hosted on July 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Clear Lake State Park Visitor Center. Recognizing that many park visitors travel long distances and may not be able to attend local meetings, the online format ensured broader community participation in the planning process.

The survey received 177 total responses, providing input on the three proposed planning alternatives: Resource Management Emphasis, Recreation Emphasis, and Blended Recreation and Resource Management. Respondents evaluated specific actions within each alternative as well as identified preferred intensity levels for various park improvements. The results of the survey are summarized by each survey question below.

### 1.1 Resource Management Emphasis Alternative

**Question 1: Which specific actions from the Resource Management Emphasis Alternative do you strongly support? Identify up to three actions that you most support from this alternative.**

Analysis of all 381 responses across first, second, and third choices reveals strong community support for trail development and ecological restoration, with the following themes ranked by frequency:

### Trail Development and Access Infrastructure:

- Trail improvements, new trail development, and accessible trails (45 responses)
- Boardwalk construction and accessible trail features (6 responses)

### Ecological Restoration and Habitat Management:

- Ecological improvements and habitat restoration (35 responses)
- Wetland restoration and improvements, including 61-acre project (22 responses)
- Meadow restoration including the 17-acre project (18 responses)
- Native vegetation reestablishment and species restoration (12 responses)
- Invasive species control and management (12 responses)
- Enhanced habitat for wildlife (3 responses)

### Water Infrastructure, Access, and Quality:

- Shoreline stabilization and revegetation, particularly the 1.9-mile project (28 responses)
- New water access locations and improved viewing areas (25 responses)
- Enhanced day-use areas and improvements (15 responses)
- Water quality management including HAB mitigation and algae bloom prevention (8 responses)
- Sediment removal projects (5 responses)

### Cole Creek Management:

- Cole Creek Campground removal to enable ecological restoration (15 responses)
- Reestablishing hydraulic connection between Cole Creek and Kelsey Slough (10 responses)

### Education and Interpretation:

- Viewing platforms for fishing access and education (8 responses)
- Wildlife viewing areas and interpretive facilities (4 responses)

### Administrative Operations and Infrastructure:

- Administrative facilities, employee housing, and operational improvements (10 responses)
- Overall resource management emphasis and actions (4 responses)
- Overnight uses and camping improvements (3 responses)

The responses show support for infrastructure that balances recreation with environmental stewardship. Trail development was the top priority, indicating visitors want better access to the park's natural features. Strong support for ecological restoration shows recognition that active intervention is needed for wetland and creek health. Respondents often linked improvements together, supporting campground removal specifically to enable creek restoration rather than opposing camping outright.

## **Question 2: Which specific actions from the Resource Management Emphasis Alternative do you not support? Identify up to three actions that you do not support from this alternative.**

Analysis of all 155 responses across first, second, and third choices reveals significant opposition concentrated on a few key issues, with the following themes ranked by frequency:



### Cole Creek Campground Management:

- Opposition to Cole Creek Campground removal (65 responses)
- General concerns about losing overnight camping capacity (20 responses)

### Infrastructure and Development Concerns:

- Opposition to viewing platforms, particularly those extending into natural areas (8 responses)
- Concerns about trail limitations and requests for more trail development (6 responses)
- Opposition to day-use improvements and expansions (5 responses)
- Opposition to new water access development (4 responses)
- Opposition to parking restrictions along Soda Bay Road (4 responses)

### Access and Management Philosophy:

- Opposition to restricting public access to south portion of park (3 responses)
- Opposition to extensive ecological restoration ("too much ecology") (3 responses)

### No Opposition:

- Respondents expressing support for all proposed actions (15 responses)

The opposition data shows that removing Cole Creek Campground emerged as a contentious issue, accounting for nearly half of all opposing responses. Many suggested partial removal or reconfiguration rather than complete elimination. Most opposition concentrated on specific implementation details rather than the overall environmental focus. Notably, this contrasts with Question 1, where campground removal received some support (15 responses), but generated much stronger opposition (65 responses) when respondents were asked what they do not support.

## 1.2 Recreation Emphasis Alternative

### Question 3: Which specific actions from the Recreation Emphasis Alternative do you strongly support? Identify up to three actions that you most support from this alternative.

Analysis of all 384 responses across first, second, and third choices reveals strong community support for enhanced recreational infrastructure and access improvements, with the following themes ranked by frequency:

#### Trail Development and Connectivity:

- Trail improvements, multi-use trails, accessible trails, and trail connections (85 responses)
- Specific trail connections to Kelseyville and Mount Konocti (15 responses)
- Parking and access improvements for trails (8 responses)

#### Campground and Overnight Improvements:

- Campground improvements and electrical hookups at Kelsey Creek, Lower Bayview, and Upper Bayview (45 responses)
- Enhanced overnight accommodations including glamping and group camping (35 responses)
- Special accommodation options like RV hookups and premium camping (6 responses)

#### Day Use and Lake Access:

- Enhanced day-use areas, lake access points, and viewing locations (30 responses)



- Swimming beach improvements and amenities (12 responses)
- Fishing recreation including accessible fishing piers (10 responses)

#### Commercial Services and Facilities:

- Concessions, camp store, boat rentals, and marina improvements (25 responses)
- Ecological improvements within recreation context, including meadow restoration project (20 responses)
- Visitor services including visitor center improvements and administrative facilities (15 responses)

#### Water-Based Recreation:

- Water trail development and non-motorized boat launch facilities (12 responses)

The responses demonstrate support for enhanced recreational infrastructure while maintaining environmental stewardship. Trail development was overwhelmingly the top priority, indicating visitors want expanded access throughout the park and connections to regional trail systems. Campground improvements with modern amenities like electrical hookups received support, suggesting demand for upgraded overnight experiences. The inclusion of ecological improvements within a recreation-focused alternative shows community recognition that recreation and environmental health can be compatible when properly managed.

**Question 4: Which specific actions from the Recreation Emphasis Alternative do you not support? Identify up to three actions that you do not support from this alternative.**

Analysis of all 214 responses across first, second, and third choices reveals significant opposition concentrated on commercialization and intensive development, with the following themes ranked by frequency:

#### Commercialization and Development Concerns:

- Opposition to glamping facilities and upscale camping options (55 responses)
- Opposition to concessions, camp stores, and boat rentals (45 responses)
- Opposition to electrical hookups at campgrounds (25 responses)
- Opposition to overnight accommodation expansion including group camping (20 responses)

#### Infrastructure and Access Concerns:

- Concerns about multi-use trails, particularly bicycle access and environmental impacts (15 responses)
- Opposition to excessive lake access development and new access points (12 responses)
- Opposition to day-use expansion and beach development (10 responses)
- Opposition to outdoor amphitheater development (8 responses)
- Concerns about parking restrictions and new parking development (6 responses)
- Opposition to marina expansion and motorized boat facilities (6 responses)

#### Facility and Administrative Opposition:

- Opposition to visitor center improvements and remodeling (4 responses)
- Opposition to additional employee housing (4 responses)
- Opposition to administrative facility improvements (3 responses)



### No Opposition:

- Respondents expressing support for all proposed recreation actions (8 responses)

The less supported actions may highlight hesitation to commercialization and development within the Recreation Emphasis Alternative. Glamping and concessions received opposition, which may allude to a preference for preserving the park's current character over adding upscale amenities. Respondents expressed concern that development could detract from the outdoor experience and attract visitors seeking convenience rather than nature. Opposition to electrical hook-ups and intensive camping facilities further reflects a desire to maintain a more traditional camping experience. Overall, the pattern suggests support for enhancing recreation opportunities while preserving the park's character.

## 1.3 Blended Recreation and Resources Management Emphasis

### Question 5: Which specific actions from the Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative do you strongly support? Identify up to three actions that you most support from this alternative.

Analysis of all 352 responses across first, second, and third choices reveals strong community support for a balanced approach that combines recreation enhancement with environmental restoration, with the following themes ranked by frequency:

### Trail Development and Connectivity:

- Trail improvements, connections to Mount Konocti, hiking trails, and accessible trails (65 responses)
- Water trail development, particularly the 2.6-mile water trail along shoreline (20 responses)

### Ecological Restoration and Environmental Management:

- Ecological improvements including a 53-acre creek/wetland restoration project (55 responses)
- Shoreline stabilization and revegetation efforts (25 responses)
- General resource management actions and environmental emphasis (15 responses)
- Cole Creek partial removal and ecological restoration (12 responses)
- Harmful algal bloom mitigation at the Swimming Beach (6 responses)

### Recreation Infrastructure and Accommodations:

- Overnight accommodation with hookups and group camping improvements (35 responses)
- Enhanced day-use areas, lake access, and viewing locations (30 responses)
- Campground improvements at Kelsey Creek and Bayview campgrounds (18 responses)

### Facilities and Services:

- Concessions, camp store, and boat rental facilities (15 responses)
- Visitor center and entrance station improvements (10 responses)
- Viewing platforms, fishing piers, and wildlife viewing areas (8 responses)
- Administrative facilities and employee housing (6 responses)





- Outdoor amphitheater and recreational amenities (4 responses)
- Marina improvements and non-motorized boat facilities (4 responses)

The responses demonstrate community support for the balanced approach that addresses both recreational needs and environmental stewardship. Trail development remained a top priority, consistent with feedback on the previous two alternatives. The blended alternative appears to address many concerns by providing substantial environmental improvements alongside enhanced recreation opportunities. Many respondents specifically noted this approach appears highly effective and respondents appreciate how it balances competing priorities.

### **Question 6: Which specific actions from the Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative do you not support? Identify up to three actions that you do not support from this alternative.**

Analysis of all 160 responses across first, second, and third choices reveals opposition concentrated on commercialization and infrastructure concerns, with the following themes ranked by frequency:

#### **Commercialization and Development Concerns:**

- Opposition to concessions, camp store, and boat rental facilities (25 responses)
- Opposition to electrical hookups at campgrounds (18 responses)
- Opposition to overnight expansion including group camping and hookups (15 responses)
- Opposition to boat rental concessions and motorized boat facilities (4 responses)

#### **Cole Creek Management:**

- Opposition to partial removal of Cole Creek Campground (20 responses)

#### **Infrastructure and Facility Opposition:**

- Opposition to outdoor amphitheater development (8 responses)
- Opposition to excessive lake access development (6 responses)
- Opposition to day-use expansion (5 responses)
- Concerns about trail connections and multi-use trail impacts (5 responses)
- Opposition to parking restrictions along Soda Bay Road (4 responses)

#### **Facility and Administrative Concerns:**

- Opposition to additional employee housing (4 responses)
- Opposition to fishing piers, particularly near swimming areas (4 responses)
- Opposition to viewing platforms extending into natural habitat (3 responses)
- Opposition to visitor center remodel (3 responses)
- Opposition to administrative improvements (2 responses)

#### **No Opposition:**

- Respondents expressing support for all proposed blended actions (3 responses)

The opposition data reveals that even in the balanced alternative, commercialization remains a primary concern, with concessions and camp store development generating the strongest opposition. Changes to Cole Creek Campground, even the partial approach, continued to be contentious. Many respondents appreciated the blended approach but still preferred to limit commercial development and maintain the park's natural character. The lower number of

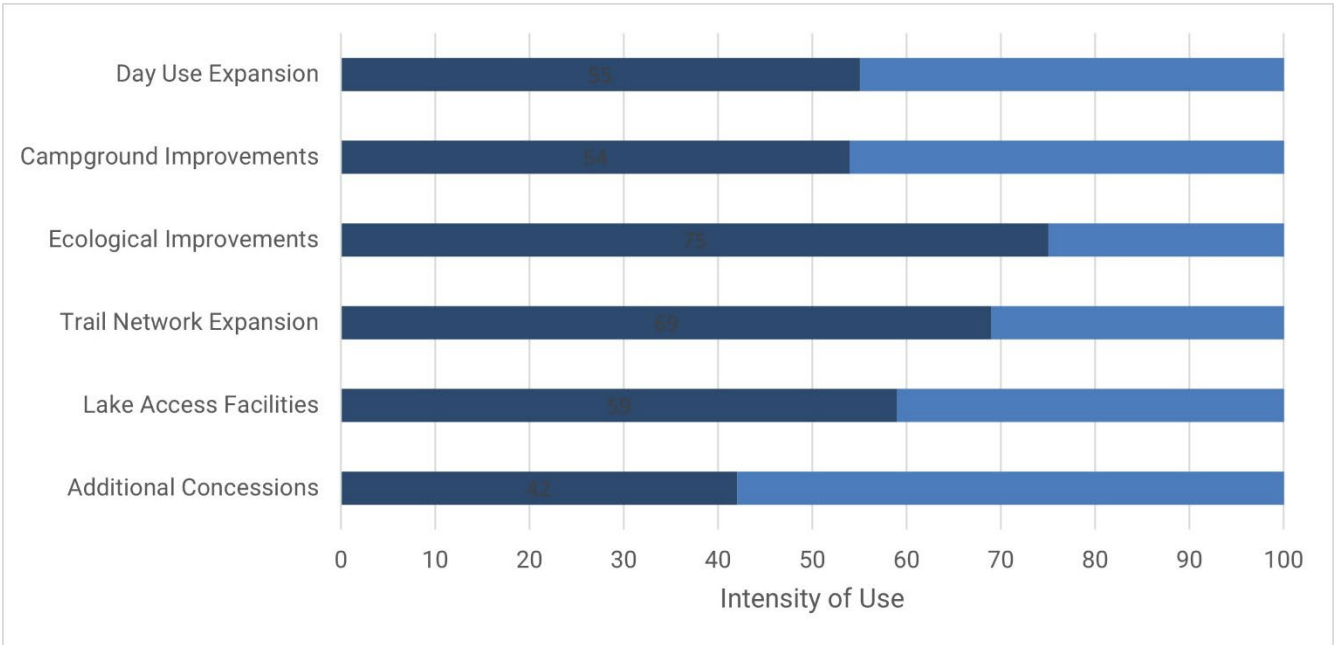


opposition responses could reflect survey fatigue, as this was the third alternative presented, rather than indicating greater acceptance of the blended alternative.

## 1.4 Intensity Use Preferences

Questions 7–12 asked respondents to rate the intensity of use for specific improvements on a 0–100 scale, with “intensity” defined as the expected level of human activity in the park. Topics included day-use, campground enhancements, ecological improvements, trail network expansion, lake access facilities, and additional concessions. Figure 1 shows the average results, with further descriptions provided below.

Figure 1: Average Intensity Preference for Park Improvements



Source: Compiled results from questions 7 through 12 in the Clear Lake State Parks Draft Alternatives Survey.

### Question 7: Which intensity of use do you think is the most appropriate for DAY USE EXPANSION at Clear Lake State Park?

155 respondents provided intensity ratings averaging 55 out of 100. The moderate score indicates community support for enhanced day-use facilities while avoiding overdevelopment. Responses ranged widely from 0 to 100,

suggesting diverse opinions on how much day-use expansion is appropriate, with many favoring measured improvements rather than intensive development. The wide range of responses suggests different preferences among respondents about appropriate expansion levels.



### **Question 8: Which intensity of use do you think is the most appropriate for CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS at Clear Lake State Park?**

156 respondents provided intensity ratings averaging 54 out of 100. This nearly identical score to day-use expansion reflects community desire for campground upgrades balanced with preserving natural camping experiences. The consistency between day-use and campground scores may highlight a need for moderate facility enhancements. Many responses clustered around the middle range, which may suggest consensus for meaningful improvements without extensive commercialization.

### **Question 9: Which intensity of use do you think is the most appropriate for ECOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS at Clear Lake State Park?**

152 respondents provided intensity ratings, averaging 75 out of 100, the highest among all categories. This may demonstrate strong support for comprehensive environmental restoration, with many respondents selecting scores of 90–100. The high average indicates that ecological health is seen as important intervention and investment, with restoration clearly prioritized over other park improvements.

### **Question 10: Which intensity of use do you think is the most appropriate for TRAIL NETWORK EXPANSION at Clear Lake State Park?**

152 respondents provided intensity ratings averaging 69 out of 100, representing the second-highest scoring for network trail expansion. Requests for expanded trail systems aligns with qualitative responses across Questions 1-6 where trail development was flagged as a priority for respondents across all alternatives. The score indicates support for trail network improvements throughout the park and regional connections and validates trail expansion as a core community expectation for park enhancement.

### **Question 11: Which intensity of use do you think is the most appropriate for LAKE ACCESS FACILITIES at Clear Lake State Park?**

152 respondents provided intensity ratings averaging 59 out of 100. The moderate score may suggest support for improved lake access while also maintaining development restraints. Responses showed more variation than other categories, which could indicate differing views on balancing access improvements with shoreline protection. The rating may also reflect a desire for better access infrastructure without compromising water quality or natural lake character.





## Question 12: Which intensity of use do you think is the most appropriate for **ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS** at Clear Lake State Park?

148 respondents provided intensity ratings averaging 42 out of 100, the lowest score among all categories. This below-moderate rating could reflect opposition to more development or commercialization. Many respondents gave very low scores (0–25), indicating a preference for minimal development. The low average aligns with opposition to concessions and camp stores across all survey sections, establishing additional development like concessions as the least desired park improvement.

## Question 13: Is there anything missing from the alternatives presented? If so, what?

Analysis of 63 open-ended responses reveals community perspectives on gaps and priorities not fully addressed in the three alternatives, with the following themes ranked by frequency:

### General Satisfaction with Alternatives:

- Nothing missing or satisfaction with presented alternatives (19 responses)

### Infrastructure and Amenities:

- Electrical hookups and Wi-Fi connectivity improvements (8 responses)
- Bathroom, restroom, and shower facility upgrades (6 responses)
- Opposition to glamping and commercialization (2 responses)
- Campground infrastructure improvements (1 response)

- Entrance station safety and functionality improvements (1 response)

### Recreation and Access Enhancement:

- Trail maintenance and improvement priorities (5 responses)
- Dog-friendly facilities including trails and beach access (3 responses)
- Fishing facility improvements and fish cleaning stations (3 responses)
- Water access improvements along shoreline (2 responses)
- Playground and family amenities (1 response)

### Environmental and Habitat Management:

- Habitat and wildlife protection requirements (5 responses)
- Water quality monitoring stations and information systems (1 response)
- Invasive species management emphasis (1 response)
- Preference for keeping park natural and simple (1 response)

### Educational and Interpretive Services:

- Educational and interpretive facility improvements (3 responses)

### Operations and Management:

- Enhanced ranger support and safety enforcement (2 responses)
- General park maintenance and operations (1 response)
- Noise and generator use restrictions (1 response)

### Planning Process:

- Survey process and clarity concerns (2 responses)
- Planning vision and leadership concerns (1 response)



The responses indicate overall satisfaction with the comprehensiveness of the three alternatives. The most frequently mentioned gaps focused on infrastructure needs like electrical service and bathroom facilities, suggesting these basic amenities are viewed as prerequisites for implementing larger improvements. Environmental protection and trail maintenance emerged as operational priorities that respondents felt needed more explicit attention regardless of which alternative is selected.

## Question 14: What is your 5-digit zip-code?

Analysis of 109 respondents who provided zip codes reveals broad geographic participation spanning local, regional, and statewide communities, with the following distribution ranked by frequency:

### Local Lake County Participation (32%):

- Lake County residents (35 responses), including
  - Kelseyville area - 95451 (16 responses)
  - Lakeport area - 95453 (12 responses)
  - Other Lake County communities (7 responses)

Lake County resident participation demonstrates strong engagement, providing detailed feedback that reflects their knowledge of park operations and facilities. Comments included concerns with daily management, cited specific park locations, and expressed nuanced perspectives on contentious issues such as the potential removal of Cole Creek Campground. Many suggested compromise approaches, such as partial removal or reconfiguration, rather than complete elimination. Overall, residents emphasized the importance of preserving the park as an affordable and accessible community resource, while also supporting environmental restoration efforts.

### Regional California Participation (63%):

- Bay Area residents including San Francisco, Oakland, Peninsula, and South Bay (26 responses)
- Other Northern California communities (20 responses)
- Sacramento Area and Central Valley residents (11 responses)
- Southern California residents from Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego areas (9 responses)
- Other California regions (3 responses)

Visitors from across California, primarily from the Bay Area and Northern California communities, provided feedback focused on enhancing recreation infrastructure and improving access. Their responses emphasized strong support for trail development, day-use facility upgrades, and ecological restoration, with particular interest in trail connections, such as links to Mount Konocti. Participants demonstrated awareness of the broader state park system, drawing comparisons to other parks, while opposing commercialization or changes that would compromise the park's natural character.

### Out-of-State Participation (5%):

- Residents from Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington (5 responses)

Though limited in number, out-of-state respondents provided feedback emphasizing comprehensive facility improvements and amenities that would enhance the destination experience for travelers. Their responses showed support for upgraded accommodations and services while still maintaining environmental priorities.



## Geographic Analysis of Feedback Patterns

Earlier in the General Plan process, a survey was conducted to identify opportunities and constraints for Clear Lake State Park. Comparing the two surveys, the geographic distribution in the second Draft Alternative Survey closely mirrors that of the initial Opportunities and Constraints Survey, demonstrating consistent geographic engagement patterns despite differences in overall participation. Both surveys reported roughly one-third local participation, indicating that although the second survey received fewer responses, the proportional breakdown is consistent. These findings suggest that feedback from both surveys reflects the park's diverse user base across both survey periods.

Analysis of the Draft Alternative Survey responses also reveals consistency in priorities across geographic groups, with trail development and ecological restoration ranking as top preferences regardless of respondent location. Local Lake County residents, regional California visitors, and out-of-state participants all expressed strong opposition to commercialization and glamping while supporting basic infrastructure improvements, such as electrical hookups and bathroom facilities.

The most notable difference appeared in responses to Cole Creek Campground removal: local residents tended to take nuanced positions, suggesting partial removal or reconfiguration, whereas regional visitors were more divided between strong support for restoration and strong opposition to losing camping capacity. Overall, the geographic diversity in responses reinforced rather than contradicted the survey's main findings, indicating that both local users and destination visitors share similar values regarding the park's natural character and appropriate development levels.

The geographic distribution also underscores Clear Lake State Park's role as a local community resource and regional recreation destination. Nearly one-third of respondents who shared zip codes were local residents, particularly from Kelseyville and Lakeport. Regional participation—primarily from the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento—accounted for over 40 percent of responses, reflecting the park's appeal as a weekend and vacation destination. Responses from Southern California and out-of-state visitors further highlight the park's broader significance, indicating that planning decisions will impact users traveling considerable distances to experience Clear Lake State Park.

