

Chico 2030 Key Issues #2 Workshop Results

Defining Open Space

The public were asked to review 8 photographs, Photographs A – H, and state whether they fit their definition of “open space” (yes or no) and explain why. There were 37 respondents to the survey, however not all respondents answered every question. It was also more common for respondents to provide explanations for “no” responses. Each photograph and the results of the questionnaire are shown below.

Photograph A:



Yes – 34
No – 1
Blank – 2

“Yes” Responses:

The rest of the respondents felt this fit with their definition of open space and made the following comments:

- Natural (5)
- Accessible (3)
- Supports variety of activities (i.e. picnics) (3)
- Beauty (2)
- Non-restricted/undefined (2)
- Trees/Vegetation (2)
- Neighborhood link/greenspace (2)
- Respectful blend of natural/developed (2)
- Inviting
- Room to explore
- Near creek
- Clean
- Appropriate Boundary Buffer
- Breather from buildings

“No” Responses:

One respondent felt the park was too developed.

Photograph B:



Yes – 20
No – 15
Blank – 2

“Yes” Responses:

- Vegetation/Trees/When trees mature (3)
- Accessible (2)
- Place for play/recreation (2)
- Opportunity for a variety of activities (2)
- Appropriate for the site/location
- Common yard
- Neighborhood
- Park

“No” Responses:

- Too close to developed area & road (4)
- Needs more trees & vegetation (3)
- Manicured/Too much human impact/Unnatural (3)
- Sterile/bleak (2)
- Paved/Cement (2)
- Not functional/ No free space (2)
- Not sustainable
- A park – not open space
- Detention Basin

Photograph C:



Yes – 17

No – 17

Blank – 3

“Yes” Responses:

- Recreational/Play space (4)
- Appropriate for site/location (2)
- Community park (2)
- Facilitates activity and use
- Social

“No” Responses:

- Recreational/Playfield is not open space/
- Intensive park use (10)
- Use too defined/limited opportunities (5)
- Developed (2)
- Not accessible to all
- Not a place for tranquility/reflection
- Unattractive
- Fence
- Concrete

Photograph D:



Yes – 20

No – 15

Blank – 2

“Yes” Responses:

- Appropriate for urban area/Important for quality town center (4)
- Public gathering place (3)
- Urban park (2)
- Provides contrast w/ urban surroundings/Relief from tall buildings (2)
- Serves alternative uses/Facilitates activities (2)
- Accessible

“No” Responses:

- Too much cement/concrete (5)
- City plaza/Urban park is not open space (3)
- Developed/Defined by human use & buildings (3)
- Needs more vegetation/no natural elements (2)
- Too controlled/defined/limited opportunities (2)
- Not enough space

Photograph E



Yes – 35

No – 0

Blank – 2

“Yes” Responses:

- Natural (10)
- Classic definition of open space/Obviously! (7)
- No human impacts/undeveloped (4)
- Beauty (2)
- Large/Open area (2)
- Undefined/Opportunity for a variety of uses(2)
- Habitat
- Vista
- More of this!
- Appropriate for the site/location
- For people and nature
- Hiking

Photograph F



Yes – 33

No – 2

Blank – 2

“Yes” Responses:

- Natural/Links to Nature (4)
- Walking/Nice walkway in natural setting/Bikeway/Off-road path (4)
- Recreational (3)
- Open Feeling/Free space (3)
- Useful (2)
- Little development (2)
- Green/Mostly vegetation (2)
- Undefined/Provides opportunity for a variety of activities (2)
- Relaxing
- Habitat
- Classic open Space
- Appropriate for the site/location
- Appropriate as a buffer between land uses

“No” Responses:

- Can make better use of space
- Too near to road

Photograph G



Yes – 30
No – 5
Blank – 2

“Yes” Responses:

- Greenbelt/Appropriate as a buffer (3)
- Green/Mostly vegetation (2)
- Attractive/inviting walkway/bikeway (4)
- Natural trail (2)
- Habitat/Attractive to wildlife (2)
- Opportunity for a variety of activities/Undefined (2)
- Recreational
- Educational
- Appropriate for the site/location
- Useful
- No buildings

“No” Responses:

- Transportation/Road is not open space (2)
- Can make better use of space

Photograph H



Yes – 19
No – 13
Blank – 5

“Yes” Responses:

- Close to development/Appropriate as neighborhood park within walking distance (2)
- Residential greenbelt/Urban Buffer (2)
- Minimal/Better than nothing (2)
- Undefined/Opportunity for a variety of uses (2)
- Appropriate for site/location
- May meet needs of elderly/children
- Replacement back yard
- Prospect & Refuge

“No” Responses:

- Like a private lawn/Part of housing development (8)
- Too small (4)
- A waste/Not useable/Can make better use of space (3)
- Too much grass
- Too manicured
- Too developed
- Needs more vegetation

Describe how you would like to see open space in Chico.

Individual Participant Responses	Frequency of Response
Variety of open space and parks/ Mix of developed and natural areas/ Variety of form and functions	9
Creekside Greenways/Water features	5
Natural setting	3
Appropriate to the site/location	2
Place for wildlife/habitat preservation	2
Undeveloped	2
Should not be an after thought, but integrated into the plan	2
Aesthetic Quality	2
Proximity to high density, mixed-use development/ Walkable to all residences	2
Recreational	1
Dog friendly parks	1
Pedestrian & Bike access	1
Plenty of space	1
Water recharge	1
Provides relief from urban landscape	1