

Community Needs Assessment



The Lake Area Planning Council (APC) is the transportation planning agency for the Lake County region. The agency is conducting a countywide study of gaps and needs in terms of sidewalks, paths, street crossings and other pedestrian facilities. As part of the study—called Lake Walks—Lake APC recently concluded a community needs assessment. The purpose was to gather input from the public on the barriers, obstacles and challenges to walking in Lake County; the needs and concerns of pedestrians; specific problem areas and locations; and ideas and suggestions for improving conditions. Lake APC will use the input to propose and prioritize specific pedestrian improvement projects in Clearlake, Lakeport and the smaller communities throughout the county.

The community needs assessment was conducted mostly in September and October 2018. Input from the public was gathered primarily through four main “channels:”

- Online survey.
- Interactive “pinnable” map on which people could post location-specific comments and also read and respond to other people’s comments.
- Comment cards handed out at a series of community events and made available at more than 15 community centers throughout the county
- Comment form on the project website.

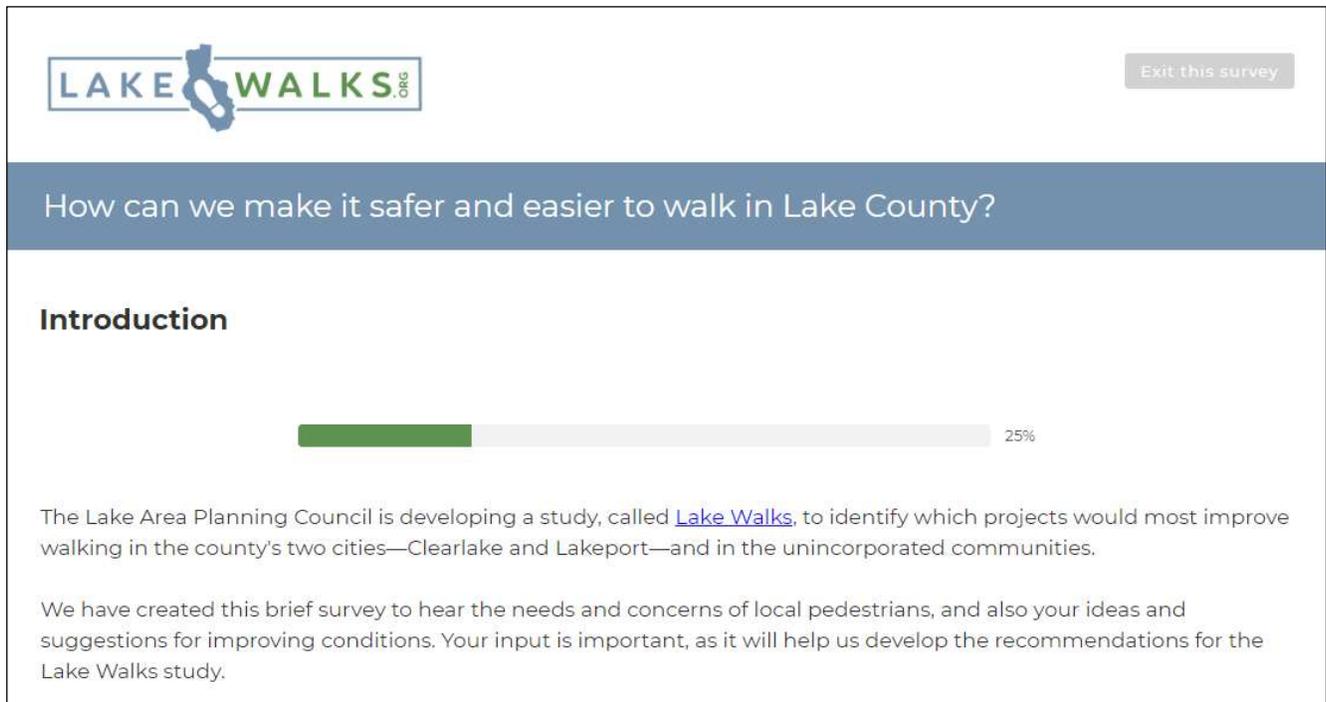
This report describes in more detail these four opportunities for the public to participate and the ways in which they were publicized by Lake APC. The report concludes with a summary of the more than 350 comments received from the public, identifying the main themes. A companion document contains the appendices to this report. The appendices provide the responses to the online survey and, more importantly, list all the comments received.

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Online survey

The online survey was open for just over two months, from September 1 through November 7, 2018. The survey, which was administered through SurveyMonkey.com, contained eight questions, all of which were optional. Respondents were eligible to win one of three \$25 gift cards for Amazon.com. The survey received 182 responses. Below are the questions included in the survey, along with a summary of the responses to each question.



Q1: Respondents' place of residence

40% of the respondents live in Lakeport, 17% in Clearlake, almost 40% elsewhere in the county and 4% outside of the county. More information about the responses to this question is available in [Appendix 1](#).

Q2: Walking for transportation and for recreation/exercise

This question asked, "How often do you walk for transportation (to go to school, work, church, transit, shopping, etc.);" and "How often do you walk for recreation or exercise?" Just over 40% of respondents walk for transportation a few times a week while almost three quarters (71%) walk for recreation/exercise at the same frequency. At the other end of the spectrum, almost one third (31%) rarely or never walk for transportation and 5% rarely or never walk for recreation/exercise. See [Appendix 2](#) for a fuller breakdown of the responses.

Q3: Infrastructure-related challenges and obstacles to walking

This question listed seven infrastructure-related challenges and obstacles to walking and asked respondents, "In your opinion, how much do they discourage people from walking in your

community?” (The challenges were always listed in random order.) The answer choices were “a lot,” “somewhat” and “not too much.” Three challenges are seen by more than 85% of respondents as discouraging people a lot or somewhat from walking (see [Appendix 3](#)); they could be interpreted as being the most important or significant obstacles to walking in Lake County:

- Missing or broken sidewalks (94% of respondents).
- Lack of trails and paths away from traffic (95%).
- Poor street lighting (for walking when it’s dark out; 87%).

Respondents were allowed to submit a comment in response to the following sub-question: “Did we forget any general challenges or obstacles to walking that are related to infrastructure?” 52 comments were submitted (see [Appendix 3](#) again). Most of the comments either echoed challenges listed in the question, particularly lack of sidewalks, crosswalks and trails; or raised non-infrastructure-related challenges, especially off-leash dogs, speeding, distracted driving and individuals perceived as threatening.

Q4: Specific streets or intersections; ideas or suggestions

This was an open-ended question asking, “Are there specific streets or intersections in your community that are especially difficult or challenging for pedestrians? Or do you have specific ideas or suggestions for improving walking conditions?” The question received 105 comments, which are listed in [Appendix 4](#).

Q5: Age of respondents

2% of respondents are under 18 years old; almost half (48%) are ages 18–44; 35% are ages 45–64; and 16% are 65 or older. See [Appendix 5](#) for more information.

Q6: Student, parent/guardian or neither

4% of respondents are K–12 students; 25% are parents or guardians of a student; and 71% are neither. See [Appendix 6](#).

Q7: Disability status of respondents

14% of respondents have a disability or medical condition that makes it difficult to walk at least some of the time while 86% do not. Most of the people who answered yes provided information about how conditions in their community prevent them from walking, given their disability. See [Appendix 7](#).

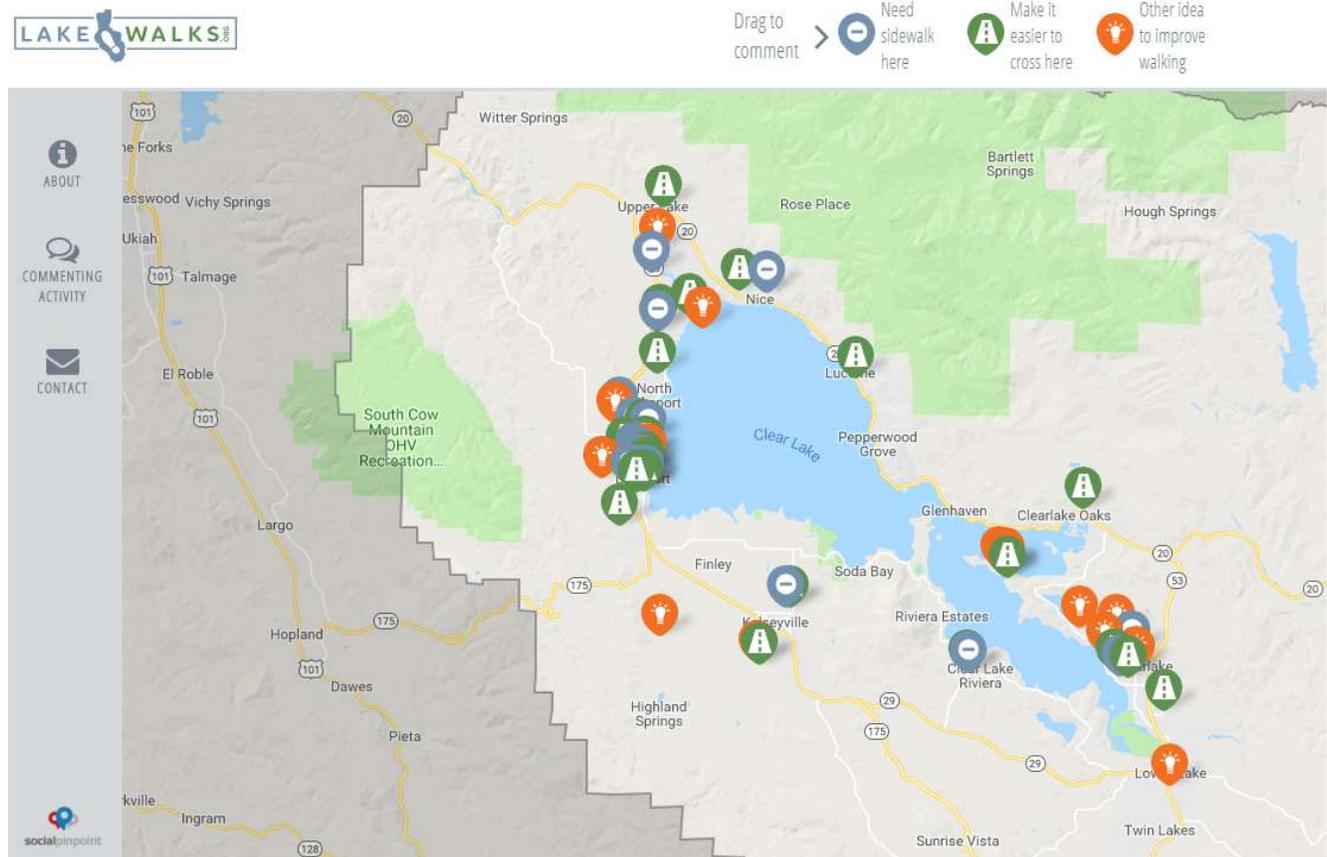
Q8: Drawing for gift cards; sign-ups for project updates

- 135 people indicated that they would like to be entered in the drawing for one of three \$25 gift cards for Amazon.com. (See the last page of this report for the results of the drawing.)
- 78 people indicated that they would like to receive future announcements and updates about the Lake Walks study.

Interactive pinnable map

Lake APC made available an online map on which people could pin markers with location-specific comments. The map was open for comments for the same time period as the survey (September 1 through November 7, 2018). Participants could post three types of comments, using pins of different colors as shown in the screenshot below: “Need sidewalk here” (blue pins), “Make it easier to cross here” (green pins) and “Other idea to improve walking” (orange pins). Commenters were eligible to win one of three \$25 gift cards for Amazon.com.

61 comments were submitted through the map. Of these, 21 are for sidewalks (blue pins), 23 for crossing improvements (green pins) and 17 for other improvement ideas (orange pins). These comments are listed in [Appendix 8](#). They are broken down not by comment type but by geographic area. The area with the most comments was Lakeport and its vicinity, with 27 comments.



Comment cards

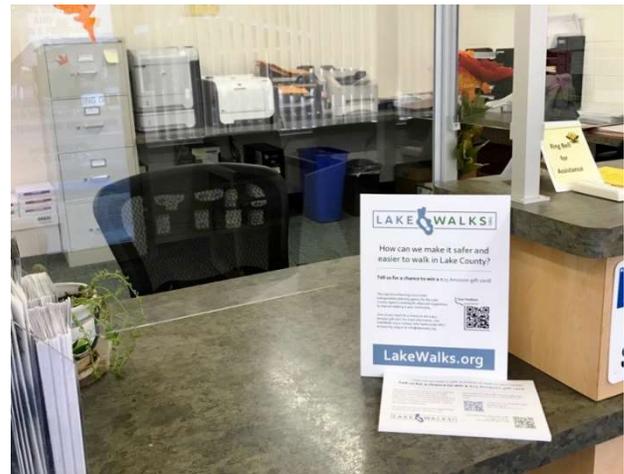
Printed comment cards for the Lake Walks study invited people to submit ideas or suggestions for projects that would improve walking in their community. The comment cards were handed out at five community events, all taking place between late August and mid-September 2018. Staff was present at these events to answer questions about the project and receive input. The events were:

- Lake County Fair; August 30–September 2 (Lakeport).
- Clearlake “State of the City” town hall meeting; September 5 (Clearlake).
- 6th Annual Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians’ “Big Time Celebration;” September 15 (Kelseyville).
- Lakeport National Night Out event; September 17 (Lakeport).
- Lake–Mendocino County Veterans Stand Down event; September 19–20 (Lakeport).



In addition, comment cards, along with display boards, were placed visibly at almost 20 community centers and other gathering places throughout the county. These places included:

- The administrative offices of the two cities, the County and the rancherias.
- The four public libraries: in Clearlake, Lakeport, Middletown and Upper Lake.
- The seven senior centers: in Clearlake, Clearlake Oaks, Kelseyville, Lakeport, Lucerne, Middletown and Upper Lake.
- The Area Agency on Aging, in Clearlake.
- The Clearlake Youth Center.



The comment cards resulted in 92 comments. These comments are listed in Appendix 9.

How can we make it safer and easier to walk in Lake County?
Tell us for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card

The Lake Area Planning Council (the regional transportation planning agency for Lake County) is conducting a pedestrian needs study. The study will identify the projects that would most improve walking in the county's two cities—Clearlake and Lakeport—and in the smaller communities.

We want to hear your ideas and suggestions! To learn more, go to LakeWalks.org

For a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card, fill out our survey or pin a comment on our map:

Online survey: Scan the code at left or go to bit.ly/LakeWalks_survey

Pinnable map: Scan the code at right or go to bit.ly/LakeWalks_map



RECEIVED OCT 30 2018

Tell us what you think!
 Share your concerns and ideas about walking in your area

If you know of a project that would improve walking in your community, let us know. It could be, for example, a new stretch of sidewalk; repairs to an existing sidewalk; a new path or trail; or crossing improvements at a challenging intersection. Don't forget to include the location.

I would like to see easement and gravel pathways along Rumsey road from end of sidewalk up to the city limit or beyond. Concrete is absolutely not needed or even preferable. A gravel path is better and cheaper for any NEW project. Landowners might be more receptive also.

Turn this form in to the event host; submit your comment online (www.LakeWalks.org); or mail the form to:

- John Speka, c/o Lake APC
- 367 N. State Street, Suite #204
- Ukiah, CA 95482

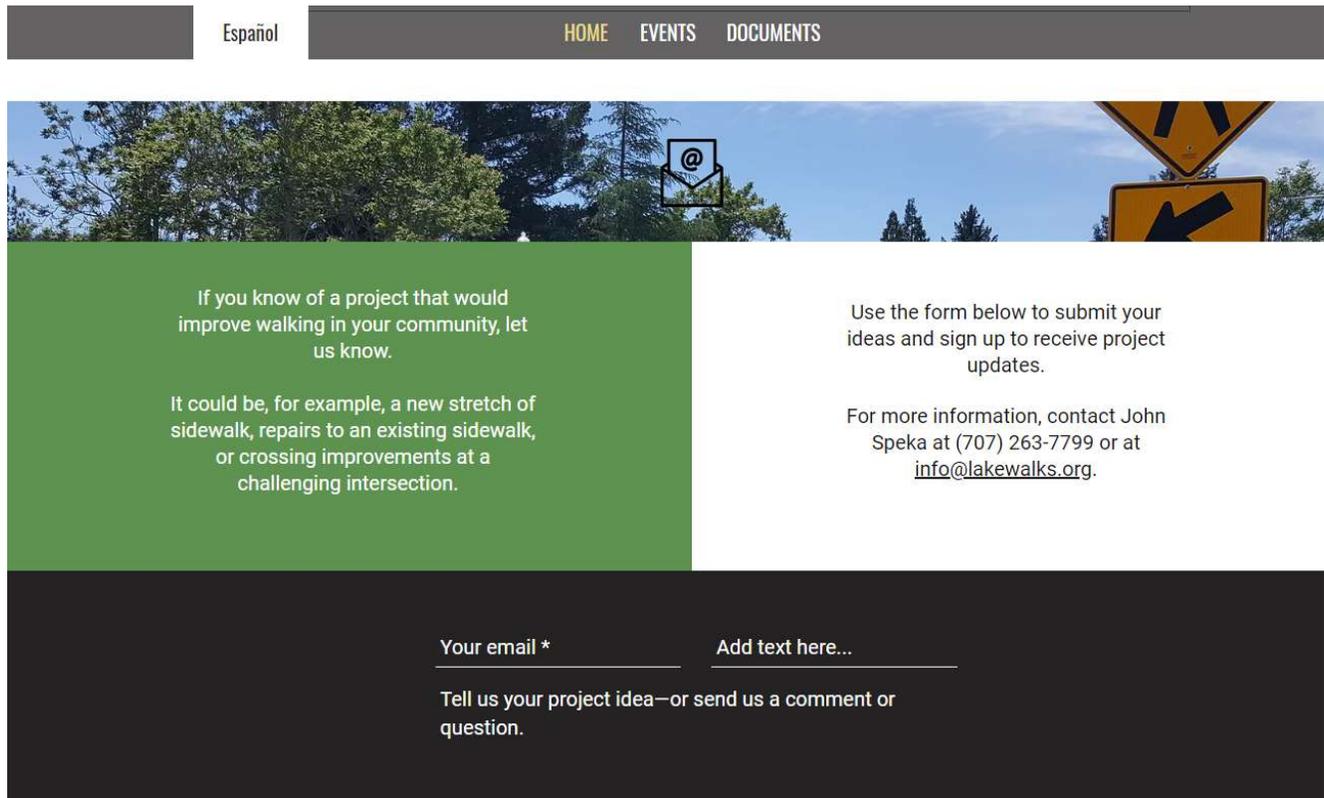
If you have an email address, include it—and write it clearly—for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Comment form on the project website

The website for the project (www.LakeWalks.org) included a comment form allowing people to submit ideas or suggestions for pedestrian projects (see screenshot below). The website also provides a contact email address for the project (info@lakewalks.org). 32 comments were submitted through the comment form on the website or by email. These comments are listed in Appendix 10. During the outreach phase, the website also included links to the online survey and the pinnable map, and a listing of community events where a Lake Walks table would be present.

Español

HOME EVENTS DOCUMENTS



If you know of a project that would improve walking in your community, let us know.

It could be, for example, a new stretch of sidewalk, repairs to an existing sidewalk, or crossing improvements at a challenging intersection.

Use the form below to submit your ideas and sign up to receive project updates.

For more information, contact John Speka at (707) 263-7799 or at info@lakewalks.org.

Your email *

Add text here...

Tell us your project idea—or send us a comment or question.

Publicizing the opportunities for public input

Opportunities for the public to provide input are effective only to the extent that people know about them. To inform the community, Lake APC publicized the outreach for the Lake Walks study through various online and off-line means:

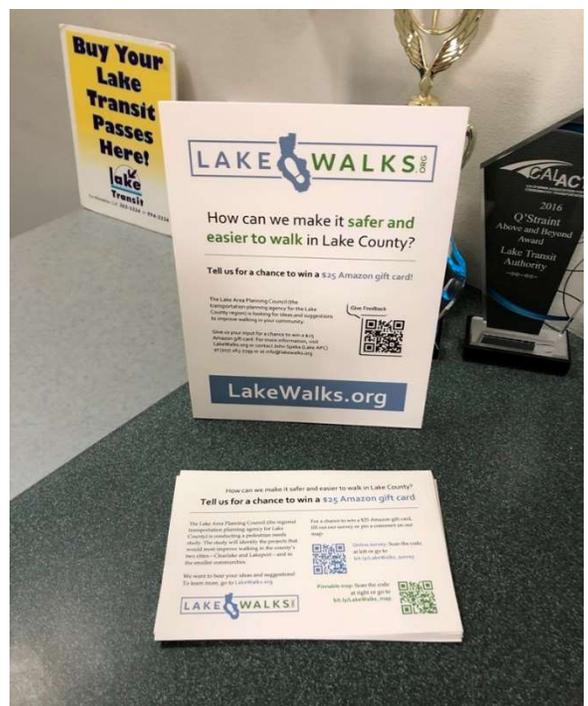
- Mass email to the approximately 140 people on the project’s email list.
- Tabling at the five community events listed in an earlier section.



- Project website.



- Display boards at the almost 20 community centers and other places of assembly listed earlier.



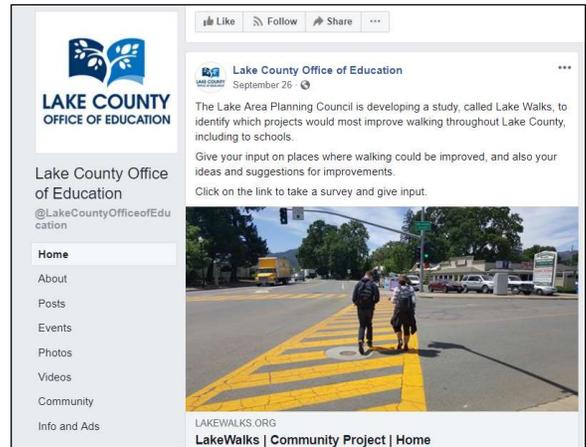
- Ads in Lake Transit buses.



- Print ad in the Lake County Record-Bee newspaper and online ads on the Record-Bee and Lake County News websites.



- Requests to other agencies and organizations to post an announcement about the Lake Walks study on their website or social-media feeds. The request was sent to, among others: the two cities (Clearlake and Lakeport), the County, Lake Transit Authority, Lake County Office of Education, Lake County Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Clubs and the several Municipal Advisory Committees (or "Town Halls") for the unincorporated areas. Posts on several Facebook pages resulted in at least 17 comments. These comments are listed in Appendix 11. (Because comments on social media were not submitted directly to Lake APC, it is possible that additional such comments exist that Lake APC is not aware of.)



which is nearly three times the turnout of the youngest voters in the 2014 primary, the last off-year election, according to research by Power California, a new statewide nonprofit focused on mobilizing young people of color to vote and engage in their communities.

"There is a different energy right now that in many ways we haven't seen in generations," said Luis Sanchez, who is co-executive director of Power California. Sanchez pointed to a poll of California youth commissioned by Power California in which more than two-thirds of respondents see voting as a "highly effective" way to improve society, and nearly half say voting in elections makes a "huge difference."

One mistake that has been made in the past by youth activists, said Sanchez and others, is that mobilization efforts often lost steam after registration drives. Now they realize that the outreach is just beginning when a youth is registered.

"There is this assumption that young people know how to vote and they know all the rules and regulations for vot-

Another area of focus for youth advocates has been the Central Valley, the largely agricultural region between Bakersfield and Sacramento that has historically had extremely low turnout. They see it as crucial to their efforts because of its large youth population.

This summer, 99Rootz, an off-shoot of Power California, has been working with UC Santa Cruz sociology professor Veronica Terriquez on a youth education

City of Clearlake: Office Assistant II \$13.64 - \$16.58/hour
The City of Clearlake is looking to hire one temporary PT (960 hours max)
Office Assistant II to perform a variety of office duties.
Applications avail. at City Hall 14050 Olympic Drive, on our website at: www.clearlake.ca.us, or call 999-8200.
Applications will be accepted until position is filled. The first round of applications will be reviewed Mon. 10/7/15. EOE/AAE

Message Therapists needed at Golden Haven Spa in Calistoga, hourly rate + comm
Send resume to barry@goldenhaven.com

Click 3bd, 2 ba 2 car garage, new paint, carpet, and appliances, \$1,450 + dep 707-623-5260.

Find the perfect house, condo or apartment in the Classifieds

SELL YOUR CAR THE EASY WAY IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

How can we make it safer and easier to walk in Lake County?

Tell us for a chance to win one of three \$25 Amazon gift cards

LakeWalks.org | (707) 263-7799

Rotary Club of Clear Lake - California

Home
About
Photos
Events
Videos
Posts
Community
Info and Ads

Like Follow Share

Rotary Club of Clear Lake - California
September 19

Safe walking access is so important!
Use this survey to give input for future improvements for anywhere in the entire county!
Easy and quick.
Lake Area Planning Council

PLANNING PROCESS

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON GAPS & NEEDS

Fall 2018

EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Winter 2018/2019

PRIORITIZATION OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

Spring 2019

LAKEWALKS.ORG
LakeWalks

Key themes from the comments

As mentioned previously, Lake APC received more than 350 public comments providing input into the Lake Walk study. The comments, which are listed in the appendices to this report, offer a deep insight into the community's thoughts and opinions regarding walking in Lake County. From these comments, several ideas, themes and specific roadways and intersections emerge as key areas of concern.

General issues

- Improve sidewalk connectivity and the safety of street crossings in downtowns and commercial areas; on arterial streets and highways; and around activity nodes and key destinations.
- Connect residential areas to schools, parks and transit.
- Improve existing infrastructure by fixing potholes, paving streets and adding street lighting.
- Create walking or multi-use paths and trails to connect communities, in particular a continuous trail around Clear Lake.
- Address other impediments to walking such as aggressive driving, crime, and stray or off-leash dogs.
- Develop walking guides and other materials that promote walking.

Location-specific issues

A high percentage of location-specific comments and concerns regarding walking involve a very small handful of roadways—generally the highways and arterial streets. This is not surprising. Highways and arterials tend to be the most direct, convenient routes to the key destinations in a community. For these reasons, much of the walking activity happens on these roads. Because much of the driving also happens on them, these thoroughfares experience a disproportionate number of the traffic safety issues affecting pedestrians. Below are the main location-specific pedestrian gaps and needs that emerged from the comments received (listed not necessarily in order of importance).

Lakeport

- Sidewalks: High, Main, 11th, 6th and Martin Streets; Lakeshore and Lakeport Boulevards; and within the residential grid.
- Safer crossings: Commercial areas along Main Street, 11th Street and Lakeport Boulevard.

Clearlake

- Sidewalks: Lakeshore Drive, Old Highway 53, Arrowhead Road, Burns Valley Road, Olympic Drive, 40th Avenue and 18th Avenue.
- Safer crossings: Along Lakeshore Drive, particularly at the intersection of Old Highway 53; also at other, scattered locations.

Smaller communities on the **northern and eastern** sides of the lake

(Including North Lakeport, Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, Clearlake Oaks and other unincorporated areas)

- Sidewalks: Highway 20 within the commercial areas in Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne and Clearlake Oaks; also Hill Road in North Lakeport, Lucerne's downtown core and Scotts Valley Road.
- Safer crossings: Along Highway 20 within the commercial areas.
- Other: Pedestrian connection between North Lakeport and Upper Lake.

Smaller communities on the **southern and western** sides of the lake

(Including Lower Lake, Hidden Valley Lake, Middletown, Cobb, Clear Lake Riviera, Soda Bay, Kelseyville and other unincorporated areas)

- Sidewalks: Soda Bay Road, particularly in Clear Lake Riviera and Soda Bay; also several streets in Kelseyville, including Gaddy Lane, Main Street, Konocti Road and Live Oak Drive.
- Safer crossings: Intersections of Highway 29/Highway 53 in Lower Lake and Highway 29/Bell Hill Road and Highway 29/Live Oak Drive in Kelseyville.

Drawing for the Amazon.com gift cards

Anyone who submitted a comment as part of the community needs assessment and who provided an email address was entered in a drawing for one of three \$25 gift cards for Amazon.com. 284 email addresses were entered in the drawing. (Only unique addresses were entered. Duplicate addresses—from people who submitted more than one comment using the same email address—were removed from the list of entrants to the drawing.)

The drawing was held on December 2, 2018, using an online application for this purpose called Random.org. The following three winners were picked at random by the application (their email addresses have been anonymized for privacy). The winners were notified of having won and were invited to redeem their gift card:

- **cma...82@att.net**
- **cmf...65@gmail.com**
- **fe...ne@gmail.com**

For any questions about the drawing, contact John Speka (Lake APC) at (707) 263-7799 or at info@lakewalks.org.