

2023

STANISLAUS COUNTY COMMUNITY CHAMPION PROGRAM

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT





Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Program Overview	4
Champion Profiles	5
Curriculum Overview	6
Activation Project Summaries	7
◦ Group 1	8
◦ Group 2	10
◦ Group 3	12
◦ Group 4	14
◦ Group 5	17
◦ Group 6	19
Final Survey Results & Debrief Session	21
Successes	23
Recommendations	25
Appendix	30

Introduction

The Stanislaus County Community Champion Program is an active transportation leadership development and community engagement program for Stanislaus County residents to learn about walking and biking safety, active transportation, and healthy living in their communities. The 2023 Community Champion Program worked with community residents to:

- Understand their community's walking and biking safety concerns;
- Identify infrastructure and programmatic strategies to address safety concerns and support the walking and biking safety needs of the community;
- Build advocacy skills to engage local governments, transportation agencies, and other stakeholders; and,
- Develop a meaningful activation project that moves their community to action and promotes walking and biking safety.

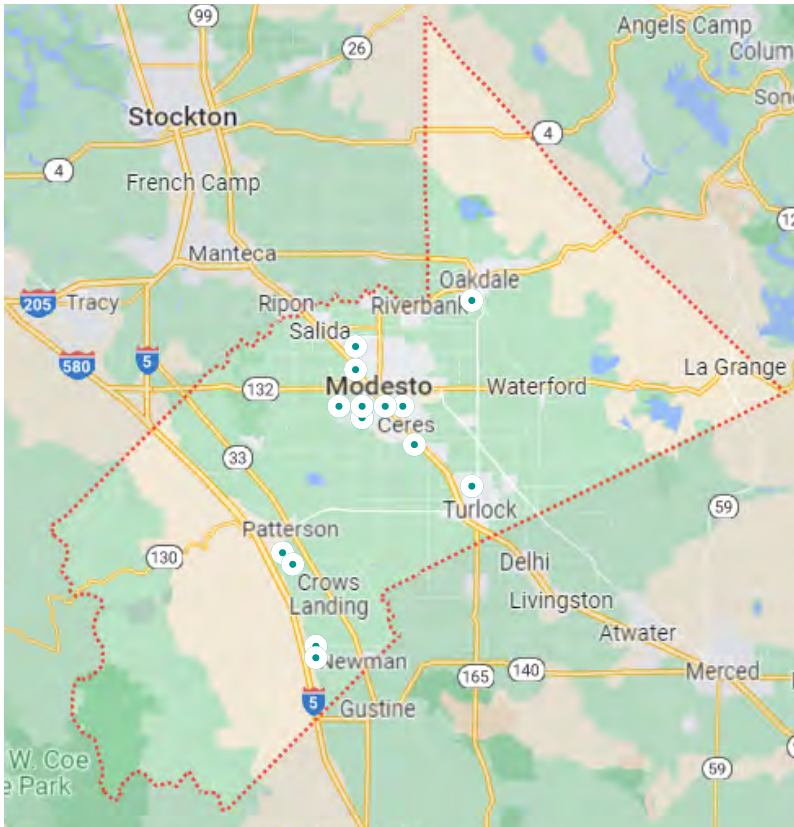
The program is a collaboration between California Walks (Cal Walks) and the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency (Stanislaus HSA) with funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Champion stipends were funded by The California Endowment (TCE).

Program Overview

The Stanislaus Champion Program was open to all Stanislaus County residents. Applications were accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis by Cal Walks and Stanislaus County staff. A total of 26 applications were received, 22 applicants were selected for the program, and 14 Champions were able to join, based on the program schedule.

Champion Profiles

The fourteen Champions represented the following communities: Newman, Patterson, Oakdale, Parklawn Community (Modesto), Turlock, North Modesto, West Modesto, Shackelford Community (Modesto) and Central Modesto.



Champion Representation

Parents	Students	City Residents	Rural or Unincorporated Area Residents
5	3	9	5

Champion Focus

Walking	Biking	Healthy Living
10	1	3

Curriculum Overview

This year, Champions completed a series of six virtual and in-person interactive educational and capacity-building trainings designed to prepare residents to develop a meaningful activation project that moved their community to take action on safety goals. Training sessions included:

Onboarding & Listening Session, April 18

- Meet the cohort, learn about program purpose and structure, review Champion expectations, and discuss safety and healthy living concerns.

Safe Systems & Visioning, April 25

- Review Safe Systems Framework, strategies, and visioning activity to plan for the future.

Data Tools, May 2

- Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS) & Street Story: Explore crash data tools TIMS & Street Story to understand the role of crash data in making sense of the community's walking and biking safety concerns.

Engaging Power, May 9

- Learn about active transportation from the perspective of local agency officials and decision-makers.

In-person Walking & Biking Assessment, May 12

- Learn how to conduct and lead an in-person walking and biking assessment with community residents.

Advocacy Skill Share, May 16

- Learn the basics of advocacy and how to apply program concepts to advocacy planning, strategies, and projects.

Community Power & Champion Showcase, May 23

- Champion activation project presentations, lessons learned discussions and celebration of accomplishments.

Activation Project Summaries

Champion-led activation projects are planned and executed to encourage Stanislaus County communities to take action on a specific walking and biking safety or healthy living concern goals. This year, the Champions were broken up into six different groups based on the Stanislaus County communities they represented and their interests. See below for each group's activation project summary.



Champions during the In-person Walking and Biking Assessment Training at Cesar E. Chavez Park.

Group 1: Community Meeting and Awareness

Group 2: Modesto Community Survey

Group 3: Farmer's Market Survey

Group 4: Tuolumne River Park Trailhead Access

Group 5: Patterson High School Survey

Group 6: Newman Parks Inventory and Survey

Group 1: Community Meeting and Awareness

Champion Names	Evelyn Landeros, DuPree Hall, Felicia Villanueva
Project Goals	Increase awareness about sidewalk safety issues in the community. Along the same note, champions sought to get the community and local elected officials involved in sidewalk advocacy.
Project Description	Champions organized a meeting at the Iglesia Modesto Revival Center at 1601 Dover Avenue in Modesto, CA. The community already hosts meetings regularly which made it easier to gather people and talk about sidewalk safety concerns. In order for this meeting to be well-attended, Champions canvassed around their communities and handed out flyer invitations, and placed speed calming signs. During the meeting, the community shared their safety concerns.
Project Data Summary	<p>Before this project, the Parklawn Community Group gathered 1,000 signatures from community members wanting better sidewalks in the area. Some of the Champions had already been working with a variety of stakeholders, like the District 5 Supervisor – Chance Condit.</p> <p>Champions built on this previous work by hosting a community meeting about sidewalk safety concerns.</p>
Project Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was held on June 1, 2023 at the Iglesia Modesto Revival Center. There were a total of 16 participants in attendance and the meeting lasted about one hour. Champions distributed 250 flyers to invite residents to the discussion; • The most notable insights noted by participants were the lack of sidewalks, driver speeding, vehicle crashes, the lack of street lighting, and illegal garbage dumping; and, • After the meeting, some community members exchanged numbers and agreed to come back to another meeting to give more input and plan for future goals– one of which was to include local organizations like schools.
Lessons Learned	<p>One of the most important lessons learned by this group was that change takes time, especially regarding safety infrastructure improvements. There are a lot of programs and grants available but they are very competitive. And so patience is key in this type of advocacy work. Also, Champions learned that allies are essential in improving community health and safety. It is crucial to connect with those with similar interests to make advocating for sidewalks more impactful.</p> <p>If they could implement this project again, Champions would add more signage and flyers in the community sooner. Champions would also create group chats earlier in the planning process, as communication within the group was challenging. Even so, it was a helpful experience since most of the Champions in this group had never organized a project like this.</p>

***Activation project presentation in Appendix (p. 31)**



Evelyn meeting with the Parklawn Community Group to plan and coordinate the community meeting on June 1, 2023.



The inside of Modesto Revival Center during the community meeting champions organized on June 1, 2023.

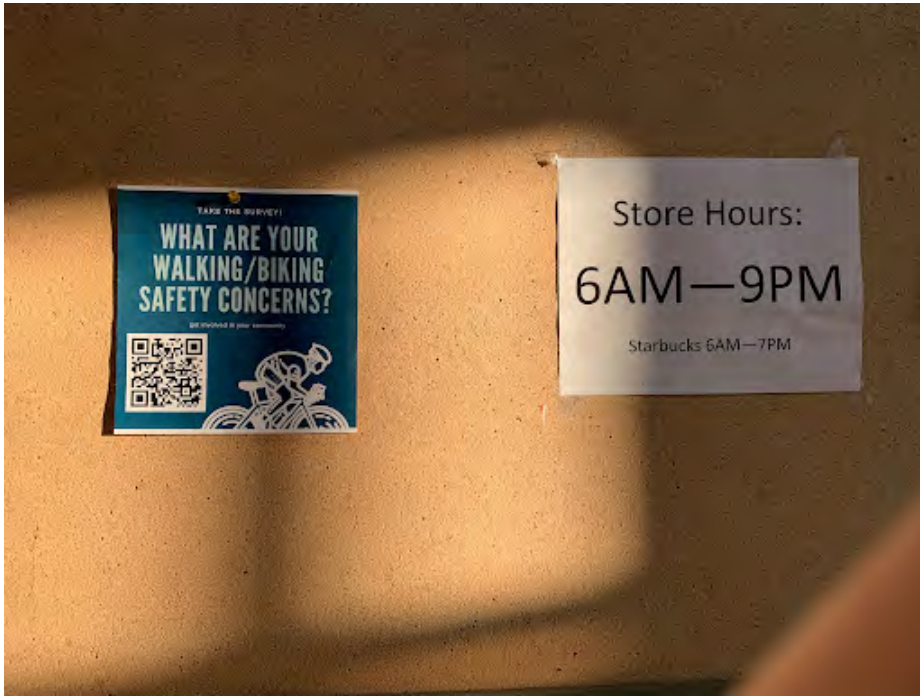


See appendix for full presentation.

Group 2: Modesto Community Survey

Champion Names	Deetya Thogarucheeti
Project Goals	Involve community members in conversations about infrastructure and learn about their safety concerns.
Project Description	This project surveyed community members to learn about their walking and biking safety concerns. A survey was created and distributed to the community via various methods to advertise and encourage people to take it. The Champion created a flyer and posted it on mailboxes and the O'Brien's bulletin board, which much of this community uses. The area was in northern Modesto around Mary Lou Dieterich Elementary. There were seven focus streets: Eastport Drive, Corte Bella, Tierra Lago Drive, Cortona Drive, Bella Tuscany Drive, Viader Drive, and Wheeler Peak Way.
Project Data Summary	<p>The process for this project was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a survey specifically for people who live on streets from Eastport to Wheeler Peak. The survey was inclusive of other neighborhood residents by asking the following free response question: "What street do you live on or is nearest to you?"; and, • Create a flyer design and post it on mailboxes on all the streets included in the survey.
Project Outcomes	Only one person responded to the survey. This person resided on Wheeler Peak and was mainly concerned about fast driver speeds. They claimed drivers ignored yield signs and wished to see more signs for pedestrians and cyclists. This person's concerns definitely do not represent the concerns of the entire community.
Lessons Learned	She learned that surveying an entire community is more complicated than it seems. Though a project may seem appealing to you, it may not resonate with others. The Champion hoped that many of her community members would give their honest opinions and inspire some change. However, the silver lining may be that so few people responded because safety concerns aren't plentiful in the community.

***Activation project presentation in Appendix (p. 36)**



Example of flyer posting on bulletin boards around the community.



Example of flyer postings around the community to direct community members to the champions' online survey.

Group 3: Farmer’s Market Surveys

Champion Names	Linda Guerra, Stephanie Garabito, Mirella Ramirez
Project Goals	Improve safety for people walking and biking to the weekly Farmer’s Market on Thursdays in Downtown Modesto. This Farmer’s Market is located at 1522 H Street Modesto, CA 95354. Champions had a specific focus from 8th Street to 16th Street along H Street. Champions recognized that the Farmer’s Market is a great asset to the community. It increases community access to healthy foods, which is also important to them. This location was selected for their activation project because Champions either work in the area or frequent the Farmer’s Market.
Project Description	Champions developed a safety survey focused on walking and biking conditions between 8th Street and 16th Street and along H Street. Champions administered the paper surveys in English and Spanish on May 25, 2023 at the Farmer’s Market. Champions handed out incentives, like reflective arm bands, to encourage greater participation in the survey. In total, the Champions administered a total of 39 surveys to patrons of the Farmer’s Market.
Project Data Summary	<p>Below are the most significant insights from the survey results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47% of respondents said they feel very unsafe walking and biking in this area; • 97% of respondents shared that high driver speeds make them feel unsafe when walking or biking in this area; • Respondents’ main concerns in order of most concerning include: high driver speeds, lack of bike lanes, faded crosswalk markings, and cracked road pavement; and, • In order, the most voted for infrastructure treatments to address safety concerns in this area: prioritize walking and biking safety infrastructure improvements, reduce driver speeds, and run an educational campaign for safe road behaviors for all.
Project Outcomes	The champions hope to compile the data and email it to the City of Modesto to advocate and consider infrastructure changes to this neighborhood.
Lessons Learned	The Champions learned about the importance of gathering community data and feedback to advocate for much needed community programs and infrastructure projects within the City of Modesto.

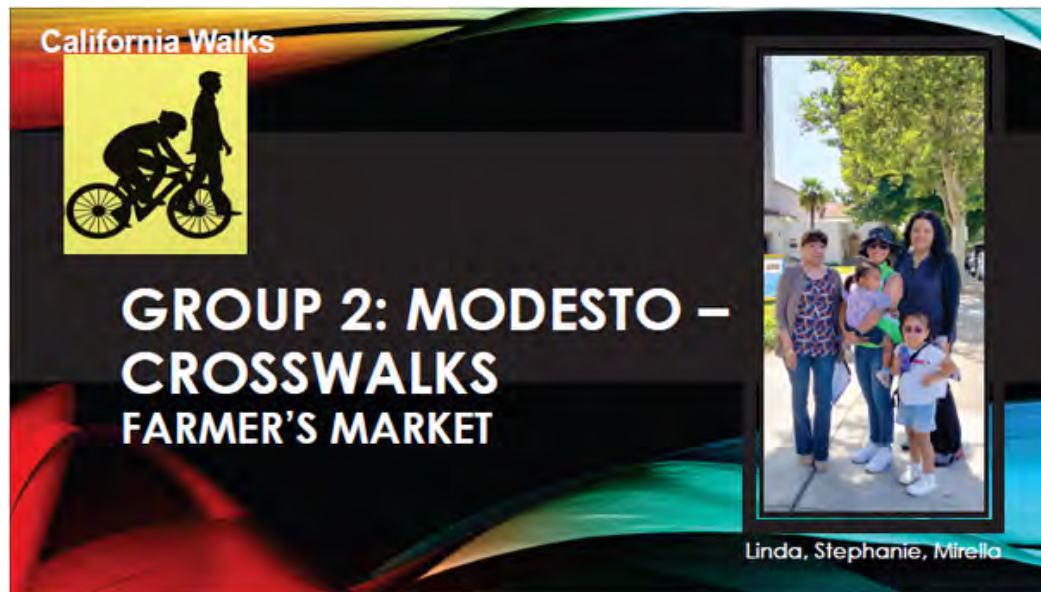
***Activation project presentation in Appendix (p. 40)**



Mirella spoke to farmer's market patrons about walking and biking safety concerns and directed them to their table at the event on May 25, 2023.



Linda, Stephanie, and her children walked around the market with flyers to engage patrons about their survey.



See appendix for full presentation.

Group 4: Tuolumne River Park Trailhead Access

Champion Names	Christina Olidem and Sophy Choum
Project Goals	Assess different routes to access Tuolumne River Trailhead Park.
Project Description	Champions conducted walking and biking assessments to the Tuolumne River Trailhead Park to document safety concerns. Champions accessed the parks from their homes. One lives in northern Modesto and the other in southern Modesto. Both champions accessed the park via 7th Street.
Project Data Summary	<p>Route 1: Accessing the park from the north via 7th Street</p> <p>Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The parking lot is not accessible or visible from the street;• No parking signs are available or visible;• No trail signs. There are various trails in the park but some of them are not named or marked;• There are mile markers but they are extremely faded;• Trail entrances are very worn down and difficult to access if you're not knowledgeable of where they are directly;• The trail name and signs are not found online;• The river trail and hike names are not visible from the road and the trail map is very small and difficult to read;• Organizations should be putting public events on plastic bulletin boards for the public to see; and,• There is a lack of sufficient lighting at the park and along the trail.

Route 2: Accessing the park from the south via 7th Street

Concerns

- Accessibility for people with disabilities is a concern since there aren't ramps;
- Significant flooding has been a reoccurring issue this year after the severe storms last winter. There is no signage to warn people to stay out of flooded areas;
- No restrooms are available at the park;
- When walking along South 7th Street along the Lion Bridge, there are sidewalks but no bike lanes. Also, when accessing the park from the Lion Bridge, there is no signage on the roadway indicating a park entrance. This makes entering the park very unsafe, and,
- Many speeding driving behaviors on 7th Street. 7th Street is often used as a cut-through to Cross Landing Road and Hatch Road.

Assessment Strengths from both routes

- There is a River Pavilion and Learning Theater at the park which is great for community events;
- Due to flooding, other recreational activities were possible such as Kayaking and boating activities in the river;
- The park has had three community meetings for public input and their master plan is located on the website;
- The park has had surveys for the community to participate in; and,
- There are proposed improvements for the park in a 10 year plan.

**Project
Outcomes**

Champions documented safety concerns when accessing the park and while in the park. There are upcoming opportunities such as community meetings where they can share these concerns.

**Lessons
Learned**

Champions learned of other bike trails in Stanislaus County when researching ways to access Tuolumne Park.

***Activation project presentation in Appendix (p. 45)**



Signage at the park entrance where champions assessed accessibility and safety concerns.



One of the unnamed bike paths at Tuolumne River Regional Park.



See appendix for full presentation.

Group 5: Patterson High School Survey

Champion Names	Brieanna Naney and Leonor De La Rosa
Project Goals	Elevate the need for sidewalks on both sides of Las Palmas Avenue to the school community and elected officials.
Project Description	This project intended to work with the City of Patterson to have sidewalks installed on both sides of Las Palmas Avenue between 9th Street and Ward Avenue for safe walking from school areas to business areas. Champions decided to use a survey to determine the need for a sidewalk in that area.
Project Data Summary	<p>Champions saw a need for better safety measures in the area and decided to focus on Las Palmas Avenue between 9th Street and Ward Avenue. Champions developed a survey (available in paper and online) targeting Patterson High School students and community members in the area. The following are the most significant insights from the survey results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 95 surveys were completed;• Respondents' main concerns were the lack of sidewalks as well as vehicles speeding;• 71% of the respondents use Las Palmas Avenue to walk or bike to and from school or during their lunch breaks;• 45% of the students are concerned about their safety on Las Palmas Avenue; and,• 16% of the students cite the lack of sidewalks as their biggest safety concerns on Las Palmas Avenue.
Project Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Champions reached out to the City of Patterson for information on the process of requesting sidewalk installations and were directed to Public Works.• Champions spoke with the Director of Public Works and reviewed their request with their survey results in hand.• The Director of Public Works gave their verbal commitment to install sidewalks once the developer completes construction of the surrounding parcels.
Lessons Learned	Champions learned that there is a complex process to having concrete sidewalks installed. If Champions had to implement this project again, they would start with a safety survey to see what the main concern was from the public. Then, they would develop a more detailed survey based on the initial survey results.

***Activation project presentation in Appendix (p. 565**



A table was set up by the high school Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Crew and local safety services to engage the youth about walking safety on their trips to and from school.



Group 6: Newman Parks Inventory and Survey

Champion Names	Oscar Gonzalez and Priscila Gonzalez Alvarez
Project Goals	Advocate for improvements to key parks in Newman so that the community has fun and safe places to recreate. Increase physical activity and outdoor activities for entire families living in Newman.
Project Description	The project focuses on small neighborhood parks in Newman that have been neglected and forgotten. These neighborhoods are full of kids who could benefit greatly from renovations to the local parks. The champions created an online survey about improvements needed at the parks and conducted inventory assessments of amenities at two local parks– Thomas G. Yancey Memorial Park and Charles F. Klehn Memorial Park.
Project Data Summary	According to TIMS data, Tuesdays between 3-6 p.m. see the highest rates of crashes in Newman with 4 reported crashes. Additionally, the City of Newman sees more broadside and sideswipe crashes with 50% and 21.43% of total crash types respectively.
Project Outcomes	<p>Below are the most significant insights from the survey results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 surveys completed; • Participants go to Hurd Barrington (87.5%), William Rae Sherman (68.8%), and Pioneer (68.8%) parks the most; • The top three reasons respondents visit parks are to spend time with family and friends (76.5%), for fun and play (70.6%), and to relax and relieve stress (64.7%); • Respondents would visit parks more often if there were new physical activity features (playground, sports fields and courts, walking loop, outdoor gym) and extended lit park hours; • Lighting is the top park safety concern; and, • Respondents would like to see new swings (76.5%) and bathroom facilities (64.7%) at Thomas G. Yancey Memorial Park. <p>Lastly, some notable suggestions from survey respondents include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike friendly paths and sidewalks; • Several of the youth would LOVE a soccer field with actual goal posts. It sucks [that] we have to go to Gustine for that; • Shade structures would increase my visits. More cover[ed] picnic areas, drinking fountains or water bottle stations; and, • Bathroom facilities.
Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newman's population is growing at a fast rate, so there are more children now but not enough parks for them to safely play; • The importance of advocacy and community involvement shapes a community to become united and more neighborhood friendly; • The power of social media allowed them to share their project without having to print lots of surveys; and, • Understanding data about the neighborhood is important when researching and carrying out a project.

***Activation project presentation in Appendix (p. 67)**



The playground amenities at Thomas Yancey Park, which was the main focus of this project.



Background information about Newman, CA. See appendix for full presentation.

Final Survey Results & Debrief Session

During the final session, Cal Walks conducted a final survey and a debrief discussion. We asked twelve questions and received ten survey responses from participants. We will note that two champions left the session early and another was driving.

All of the survey participants either **agreed or strongly agreed** for questions 1-7 with the exception of two neutral responses for questions two and four. All of the survey participants agreed they would recommend the Community Champions program to their community.

1. I understand more about resources and strategies to support walking and biking safety improvements in my community.
2. I expanded my knowledge, understanding, and analysis of the systems impacting walking and biking safety, mobility justice, and community power.
3. I have a greater understanding of the role of federal, state, and local government agencies in making improvements in my community.
4. I developed skills to continue being a community leader and advocate for walking and biking safety.
5. The facilitators clearly conveyed content and facilitated topics effectively.
6. The weekly presentations and discussions were informative and dynamic.
7. The program and facilitators have prepared and supported me thus far in the activation planning process.
8. The \$400 stipend encouraged and/or made it possible for me to participate in the program.

9. What did you enjoy most about the program?

10. What could be improved about the program?

11. Would you recommend the Champions Program to your community?

12. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

During the debrief discussion and survey questions nine, ten and twelve, Cal Walks captured the following recommendations:

- Extend the program length to include more sessions;
- Improve communication outside of sessions between Champions;
- Keep participants informed of future programming in the County and Cal Walks; and,
- Record sessions.

Champions shared that they most enjoyed the following about the program:

- Working alongside siblings;
- Learning how to do a walking assessment;
- The presentations and breaks during sessions;
- Learning how to work with others to create change; and,
- Meeting like-minded individuals.

Successes

1 Local Community-Based Organization Outreach Efforts

After last year's cohort, Cal Walks decided to pay local community-based organizations to conduct targeted outreach to their local communities in hopes of receiving more applications from Stanislaus County residents. This year, we had the pleasure of partnering with the West Modesto Community Collaborative, Catholic Charities of Stockton, Valley Improvement Projects, and Tuolumne River Trust. We were able to secure Catholic Charities of Stockton's participation because two of their staff members completed the Champion program in 2022 and were able to share their experiences with the program with people within their network. Collectively, they were able to reach over 150 residents in the County across multiple platforms including presenting at in-person events and meetings, email newsletters, social media posts, and a radio segment. This collective and local effort resulted in a total of 26 applications for a program that could only accommodate 20 champions. Due to time conflicts with the designated times of the training, only 14 champions were able to participate this year. That is almost double the amount of Champions who participated in the 2022 cohort. Working with local organizations ensured that the application was more widespread across the county and that it was coming from a trusted source that could also speak on the program. Additionally, these partnerships connected the local organizations to other Cal Walks programs that have a similar goal of improving walking and biking safety for communities all across the state. Thus, continuing the Stanislaus County HSA's goal of improving walking and biking safety and community wellness all across the County, even outside of the Champion Program.

2 Activations Project Support

This year, Cal Walks created a more formalized timeline for Champions to complete their activation projects. Cal Walks created workbooks in Google Docs with a step-by-step process on how to slowly put together the pieces of an activation project on a weekly basis. The last 30 - 45 minutes of every session were designated time and space for Champions to meet within their groups and plan for their projects. Cal Walks staff then toggled through each of the groups during this time to provide more individualized support. Champions were then expected to continue the discussions with each other outside of the training space. Formalizing the process made it so that all the groups were more or less working on the same items at the same time. This allowed Cal Walks to review how to complete certain tasks with the entire group and then let them complete the tasks within their group. This process also created clearer expectations for what they should include in the activation project summaries because they were building the content for it on a weekly basis. Ultimately, the structure did enable some groups to complete their projects quickly because they had a clear guide of what to work on next and were able to jump ahead whenever they were ready.

3

Champion Attendance & Compensation

Champion attendance of sessions was very impressive this year. We hosted sessions on a weekly basis for six weeks. Every Tuesday we met for two hours from 4 - 6 p.m. Of all these sessions, we only documented four absences. In addition, this cohort demonstrated commitment to the program by continually informing staff of any tardiness or need to leave sessions early. The Champions' excellent attendance could be attributed to two things: clear expectations and the stipend. Cal Walks set clear expectations from the commence of the program. In particular, Cal Walks stressed that sessions could not be made up if missed and that attendance to all six sessions was mandatory. Although there were some absences, the overall attendance of this cohort is commendable and should be regarded as a success. Lastly, Cal Walks conducted a survey during the final session in which Champions were asked whether or not the stipend encouraged or facilitated their participation in the program. All ten respondents shared that the stipend did in fact encourage their participation. And so, we attribute the Champions' excellent attendance to the stipend incentive as well.

4

Geographic Representation of the County

This cohort was expansive in its representation of communities across Stanislaus County. This is a direct result of the extensive outreach that the Community-Based Organization partners conducted. The fourteen Champions represented the following communities: Newman, Patterson, Oakdale, Turlock, Parklawn Community (Modesto), West Modesto, Shackelford Community (Modesto) and Central Modesto.

5

Language Accessibility

Cal Walks was able to engage one monolingual Spanish speaker and sustain their engagement throughout the entirety of the program. When conducting outreach, engagement materials highlighted that the program was available in Spanish and English. This appealed to three monolingual Spanish speaking applicants. However, because of time conflicts only one monolingual speaker committed to the program. Once the program commenced, all sessions were delivered in English with interpretation available into Spanish. Cal Walks translated all of the session presentations, the workbook, and all email correspondences into Spanish. Next, Cal Walks grouped a few of the other bilingual Spanish-speakers in the cohort with the single monolingual speaker to heighten collaboration and support relationship building among Champions. Our Project Team believes this effort is also reflected in the monolingual speaker's sustained engagement in the program from start to finish. We recommend that future iterations of the program consider and prioritize language accessibility when grouping Champions as well. The sustained engagement of one monolingual Spanish speaker, although seemingly small, is a success and precedent for future programming.

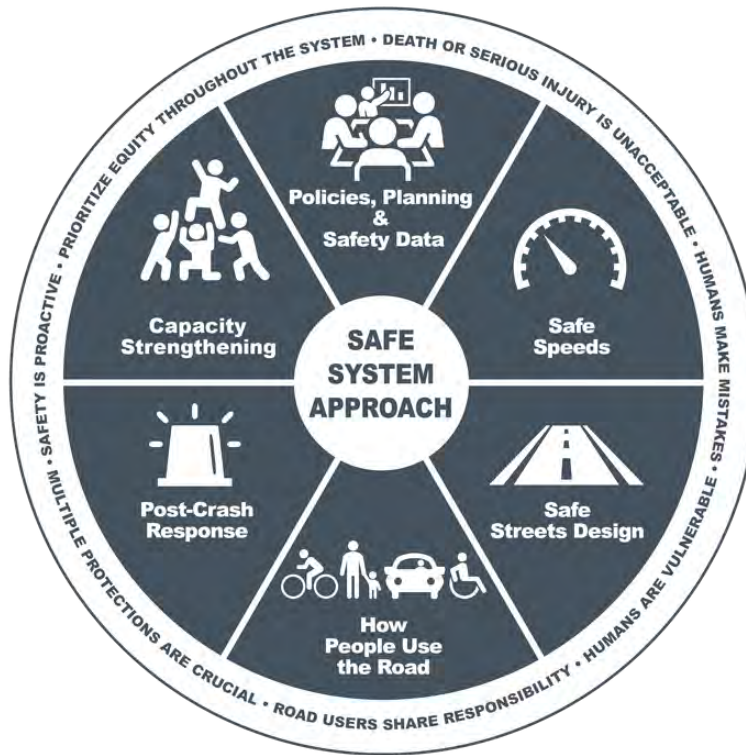
Recommendations

1 In-Person Trainings and Transportation Support

Cal Walks recommends assembling the Champion group for in-person trainings at least two - three times within the program. Hosting the first onboarding and listening session in-person would allow Cal Walks to build greater rapport with the Champions and it would enable better communication between the Champions themselves. The first training is intended for the Champions to get to know each other and get to know their communities better and this is better facilitated during an in-person meet-up. The second in-person meet-up, which was held last year and this year, could be to conduct a walking and biking assessment at most if not all of the communities that are represented within the County. This year, the Champions represented five different communities in the County and it would have been great to visit each one and help the Champions narrow in on their activation projects based on their main concerns and improvements desired. The final in-person meet-up could be for the final training showcase where we could host a small celebration for the Champions and get to hear about their activation projects in-person. Ultimately, more face to face time with Champions would create greater buy-in into the program and achieve the program's purpose which is to create cohorts of advocates all across the county that can come together to advocate for change. Virtual settings may be a good option for one-off trainings, but a series of trainings is better facilitated in-person where people can talk freely amongst themselves, make better connections, and ensure everyone's active participation. Having more in-person meet-ups would require funds to provide transportation support for anyone that needed it. This would also encourage residents to use their local transportation options.

2 Safe System Approach Integration

Cal Walks uses the Safe System Approach to review pedestrian and bike crash data and safety strategies with communities. The Safe System Approach focuses on saving lives, with the understanding that humans make mistakes and bodies are fragile. Attention is focused on reducing fatal and serious injuries when a crash occurs through ways a street is designed, the ways we manage our streets and their infrastructure, and engaging and educating communities on how to use streets safely. This approach and concepts were introduced in this program, but an intentional integration of the Safe System strategies into each session would expose Champions to a greater number of strategies that they can pull from for their activation projects. An introduction to these strategies at the first meeting would also help them visualize what a potential activation project can be. The activation project goals are intentionally general so that Champions can really personalize their projects to their communities and work on something that they are personally passionate about. The groups this year needed a lot of support in brainstorming different strategies to alleviate their greatest concern and Cal Walks had these discussions with each group, rather than a continual conversation as an entire cohort over the course of the training program. A greater emphasis on these strategies at every training would also help Champions plan for what's next after the program is over. Based on what activation project they completed, they can decide to tackle another project highlighted within the Safe System approach and understand how it all ties together.



3 Multi-Year Projects and Coordination with Past Champions

If the Champion program is funded beyond fiscal year 2024, then it will be the third cohort that completes this program. If the program were to continue, Cal Walks could consider how to integrate key Champions from the past cohorts into the new cohort. We could consider how the past cohort can support outreach and recruitment and how they can support the new Champions' learning, as well as enhance their own learning and skills in active transportation advocacy. Potential roles past champions could take are to support with outreach and recruitment and get paired up with an activation project group in their community so that they can have additional support in conducting walking and biking assessments of their community, and receive on-the-ground support for the implementation of their activation projects. This type of integration of past Champions to the new cohort would require a facilitation payment to support their involvement in the project. Cal Walks could consider how to supplement the funds from the County's CalFresh program with other grant funding that would enable the program to grow and ultimately support the County's goals of creating local Champions all across the county to support local advocacy work around active transportation and healthy living. Cal Walks could create videos based on recordings from the last training session for activation projects to demonstrate the impact of the program and make the case for why the program should be expanded to have a wider reach within the County.

4 Bicycle Education

Over the last two cohorts, Champions have been interested in bike safety. While the training topics cover walking and biking safety and general wellness, there is a greater focus on pedestrian safety because it is the type of transportation that Champions have the most experience with. However, we've learned that Champions are also equally invested in bike safety, but have less experience with it because they do not feel comfortable riding in their communities. During both cohorts, Champions have been given the opportunity to participate in Traffic Safety 101 courses held by Stanislaus County, which is the precursor to becoming a League Certified Instructor (LCI's) through the League of American Bicyclists. Cal Walks could emphasize bike education in outreach materials so that we are more likely to recruit residents interested in bike safety and perhaps interested in becoming LCI's. Currently, Stanislaus County has very few LCI's who are able to lead community bike rides, bike rodeos, and support other bike education efforts throughout the County. This program is a great opportunity to support the County in being able to increase their number of LCI's that could then continue the cycle of education with youth, schools, and families all throughout the County.

5 Hard Copies of Materials and Digital Support

The digital divide was very evident in this cohort. Many champions were deterred from working on their activation projects during sessions because the workbook was digital. Many of them joined on their phones; and so, it was difficult for them to fully engage with presentations on their smaller screens. The smaller screens also make it difficult to navigate multiple applications during planning segments of sessions. For example, Champions found it difficult to stay on the Zoom App and work on their group workbooks simultaneously. In addition, some Champions have shared that utilizing Google Suite is very difficult and they don't have a lot of experience creating or collaborating online. Cal Walks recommends for one of the earlier sessions to include an overview of the G-Suite tools utilized for completing project deliverables. Although Champions may not have these digital skill sets developed before the program, this is an opportunity to equip them with tools to further their advocacy capacities. To reduce this barrier to engagement even further, Cal Walks recommends a question on the application regarding their preference for print materials so that packets can be mailed out before sessions commence. This way participants can focus more on planning during the activation planning segments each session rather than figuring out their technology. Lastly, an increase in the printing budget would accommodate more print materials for Champions in advance of sessions so that they can fully participate.

6

Stanislaus County Departmental Collaborations on Active Transportation Project Funding

After two years of the Champion program, we have heard about the concerns and programmatic and infrastructure recommendations from residents throughout the County. Stanislaus County Health Services Agency could review the data from the past two cohorts and decide which concerns or recommendations are the greatest priority for their department and in line with their ongoing goals. With these projects in mind, the Health Services Department could meet with other departments within the County to learn about their priorities and determine which department they could partner with to apply for grant funding to start working on the Champions' programmatic and infrastructure recommendations. This type of collaboration would send the message to past Champions that the Health Services Agency is willing to take action on their concerns. Grant funding opportunities for HSA and Champions include:

Office of Traffic Safety Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Grant

- **Focus:** The grant addresses increasing injuries and fatalities experienced by pedestrians and bicyclists across California. It uses the Safe Systems approach, which Champions were introduced to in the program, and aims to raise awareness about traffic rules, rights, and responsibilities for road users. Grant programs should support high-risk populations such as youth and older adult community members and folks who speak non-English languages and address one or more of the program goal areas.
- **Timeline:** The grant cycle starts December 1st of each year and applications are due in late January, with awardees being notified in mid-Summer. Grants are awarded on a 12-month timeline from October 1 to September 30 but with delays in contracting, most grants are 8-9 months in length.
- **Funding:** The grant does not have a minimum or maximum award amount. Cal Walks is open to c-developing a follow-up program with Stanislaus County Health Services Agency.

America Walks Community Change Grant

- **Focus:** The Community Change grant supports advocates, organizations, and agencies working to advance walkability in their communities. Grants are awarded to projects and programs that create change and opportunities for walking and movement at the community level.
- **Timeline:** Applications open in Fall 2023. Sign up for America Walks listserv to get up-to-date information.
- **Funding:** \$1,500 awarded to 15 grantees

America Walks Walking College Grant

- **Focus:** The Walking College is an online educational program geared toward early-to-middle-stage advocates eager to organize in communities to expand access to walkable, vibrant, safe, and accessible places. Fellows hone in on a problem in their community they wish to address, develop the knowledge and skills they need to help bring about positive change with feedback from mentors and peers, create a plan for getting the work done, and in the process, become some of America Walks' most valuable grassroots partners. The program is a significant next step for Stanislaus Champions as it is also virtual, requires only 5-10 hours a week, and works towards a Walking Action Plan.
- **Timeline:** The application will open in early February 2024. Sign up for America Walks listserv to get up-to-date information.
- **Funding:** N/A



Appendix

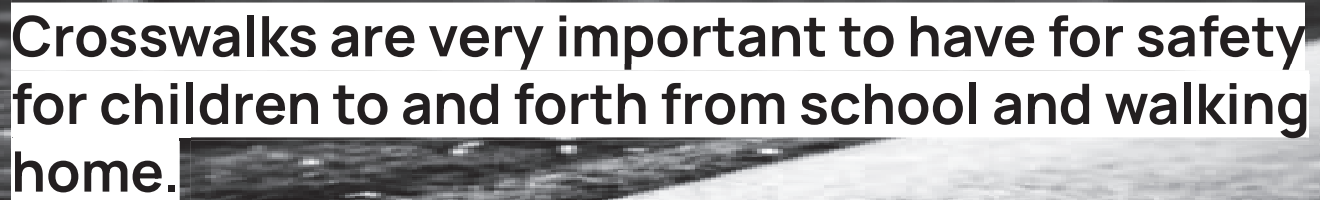


Crosswalks and Other Safety Measures

School Safety, loading and unloading, walking in the neighborhood, etc.

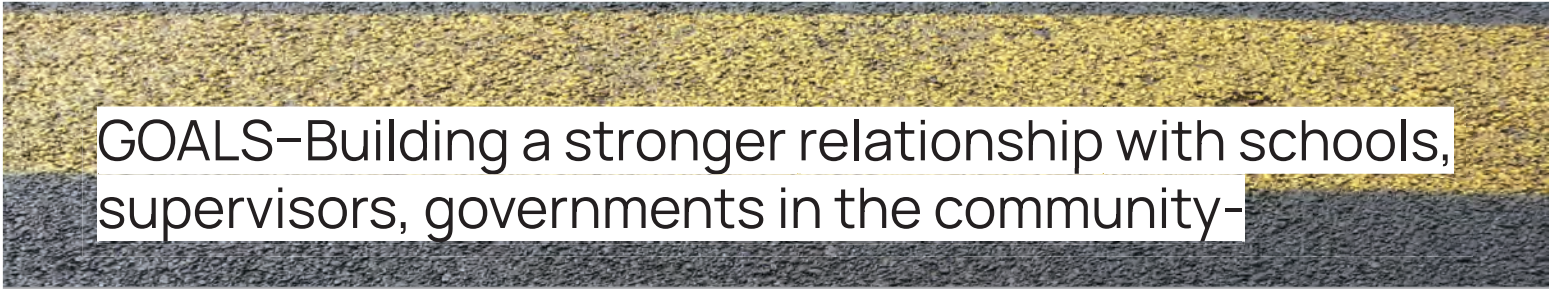


What changes would we like to see happen for the safety of our children?



Crosswalks are very important to have for safety for children to and forth from school and walking home.

Speed bumps, cross walks, speeding signs, speed bumps, available pick up and drop off areas designated for children that are safe. Safe routes for children who walk to and forth from the bus stop or school. Lighting available for families walking to stores, and safe bike riding for children including trails.



GOALS–Building a stronger relationship with schools, supervisors, governments in the community–

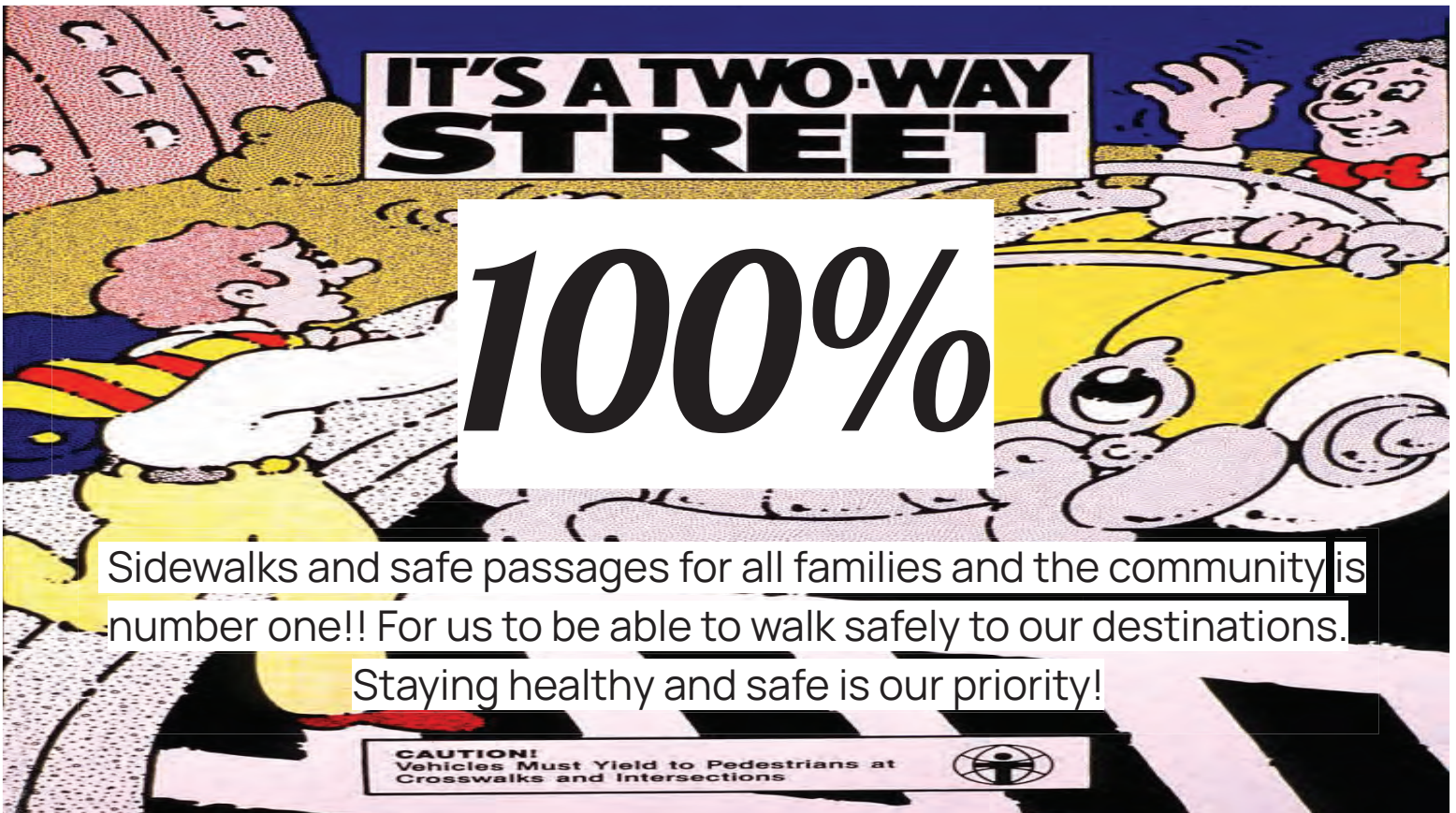
How We Will Reach These Goals:

- ❖ Surveys
- ❖ Community walks
- ❖ Pictures
- ❖ Door to door
- ❖ Canvassing
- ❖ Supervisors support



Building
community
we can all
share and
enjoy!

1. 1000 signatures
2. Surveys
3. School meetings
4. Senator
5. Supervisor
6. Non-profits
7. Community meetings
8. Public opinions



IT'S A TWO-WAY STREET

100%

Sidewalks and safe passages for all families and the community is number one!! For us to be able to walk safely to our destinations.

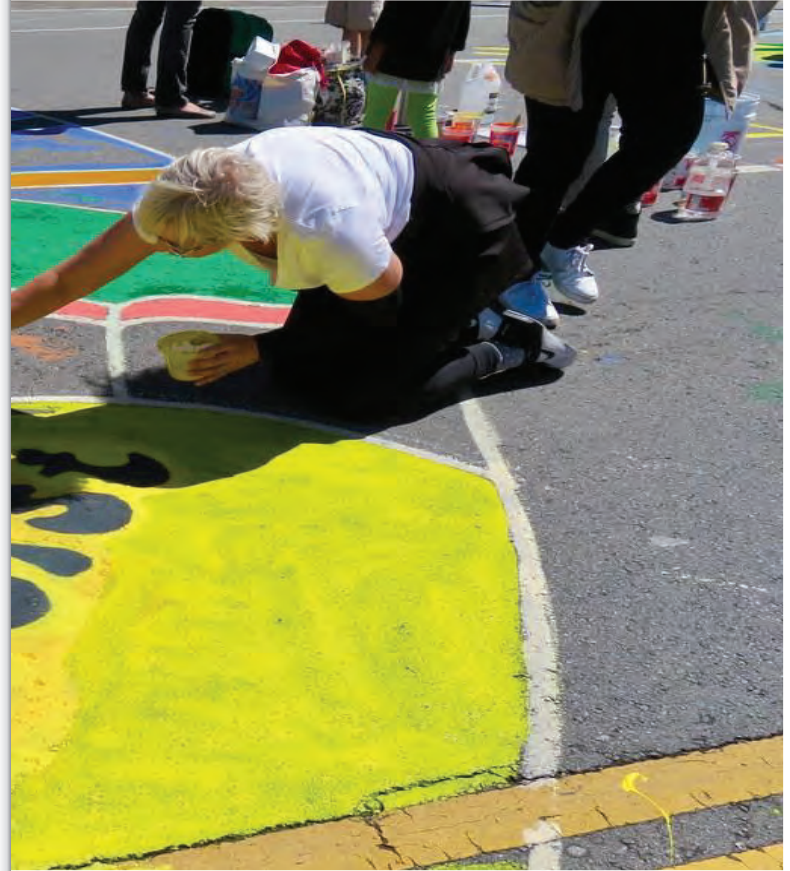
Staying healthy and safe is our priority!

CAUTION!
Vehicles Must Yield to Pedestrians at
Crosswalks and Intersections



The length of time that it take to make these changes maybe longer than what we would like. Persistence and perseverance will get us there.

Seeing the beautiful changes that we all made happen is worth the wait and the fight.



“Some beautiful paths can’t be discovered without getting lost.”

Erol Ozan.



This is the future of our children and their children, the most important takeaway that everyone has to remember.



Thanks!

Evelyn Landeros

Felicia Villanueva

Dupree

Deetya

CALWALKS.ORG

Feel free to reach out and support us in any way

you can. Be a part of the change!!



Activation Project Presentation

—
by Deetya Thogarucheti

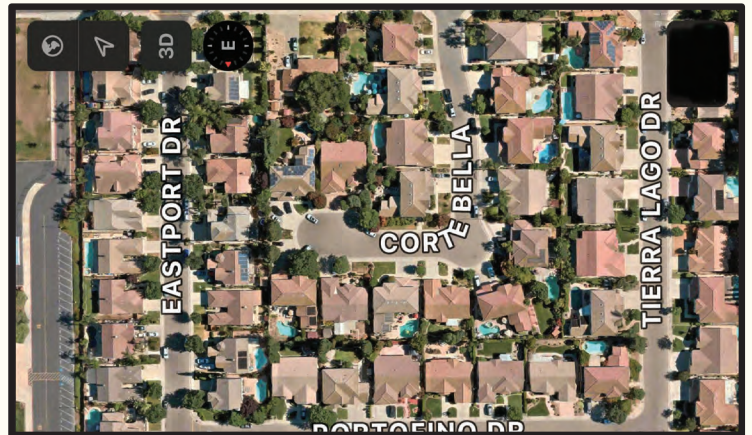
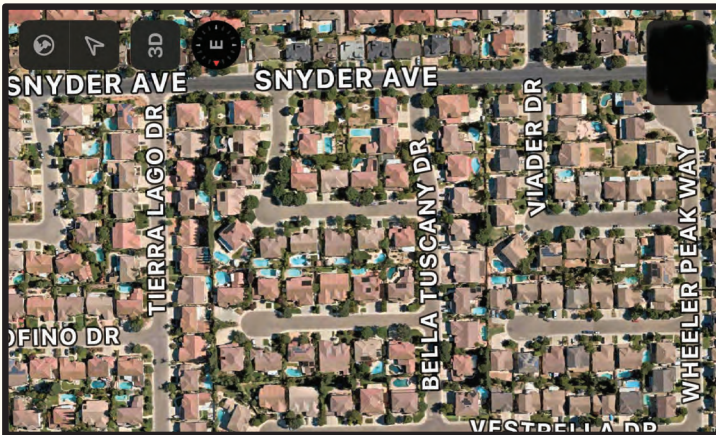
Background Info

My name is Deetya and I live on Bella Tuscan Dr, which, for reference, is near the O'Brien's Market on Dale. All the streets behind that and close to Snyder are what I would call my community.

I joined the Stanislaus County Champions Program because I found the premise intriguing. I'd never done work involving walking/biking safety, and while I, like pretty much everyone ever, complained about this issue, somehow I never processed the thought of actually activating to fight this. My project had mixed results, but I learned a lot along the way. I'm not just another citizen complaining about things; I think that I've grown into more of a changemaker, or even a County Champion!

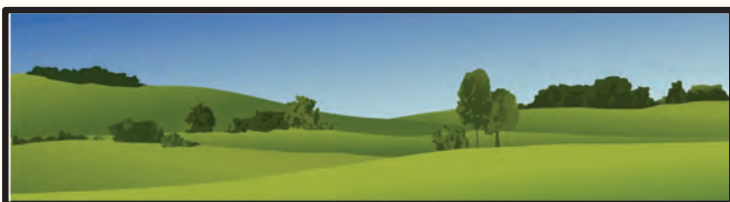
My Goals

1. Get the community involved in their infrastructure.
2. Learn about their concerns regarding walking/biking safety.
3. Activate their concerns to create real, positive change!



Project Description

My project consisted of surveying my community members to learn about their walking/biking safety concerns. I created a survey and used several methods to advertise and encourage people to take it. I created a flier and posted it on mailboxes around my area, and I also posted my flier on the O'Brien's bulletin board, which much of my community uses. I struggled with getting people to actually take my survey, and I plan to encourage more responses by distributing fliers door-to-door and posting it on more mailboxes. Hopefully these methods will encourage more residents to share their input with me!



Project Photos



I posted my flier on several mailboxes, including this one.

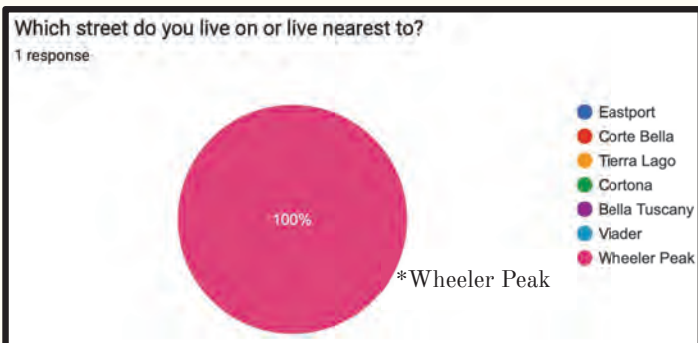


This is the flier I created.



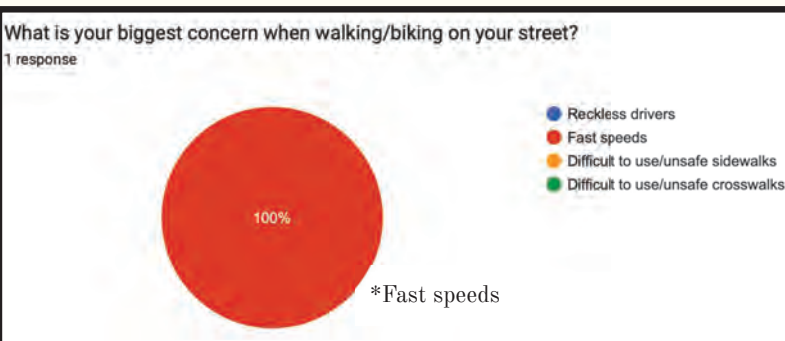
I put up my flier on the O'Brien's bulletin board.

Data Summary



Has anything ever happened to you or someone you know while walking/biking on your street? If so, what?
1 response

Many drivers ignore the yield signs within the neighborhood, making it very unsafe for pedestrians



How do you think your street or the street you live nearest to could be improved?
1 response

More signs for walking pedestrians and cyclist

Survey Outcomes

As I mentioned early, I didn't get many responses to my survey. In fact, as of today, June 12th, I've only received one response from a community member. The data I showed you was just from that one person's response. This person resided on Wheeler Peak, was mainly concerned about fast speeds, claimed that drivers ignored yield signs, and wished to see more signs for pedestrians and cyclists. These signs weren't specified, but they could mean either signs alerting drivers to pedestrians/cyclists, or signs that notified pedestrians/cyclists of unsafe drivers. Either way, this person's concerns definitely did not represent the concerns of my entire community. They could have represented the concerns of the residents of Wheeler Peak, however.

Lesson Learned

I definitely learned that surveying an entire community is harder than it seems. Though your project may seem appealing to you, it's not always like that for other people. I had hoped that many of my fellow community members would give me their honest complaints and inspire some change, but perhaps the fact that so few people responded was because there wasn't much to improve! So, that's positive. I'll keep pushing the survey to my community members, but I'll remember the lessons that I've learned in this Activation Project.

**THANK YOU STANISLAUS HSA,
CALWALKS, AND GROUP 1!**



GROUP 2: MODESTO – CROSSWALKS FARMER’S MARKET



Linda, Stephanie, Mirella

PROJECT GOALS

- Nuestra meta es la seguridad de los peatones y personas que transitan en bicicleta.
- Our Team's goal is pedestrian safety and people who travel by bicycle.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Realizar encuestas a personas que pueden ser afectadas directamente por la inseguridad de alta velocidad que transitan los vehículos en las calles de la 16th a la 8th sobre la calle H.
- *Team members delivered and collected surveys from people who may be directly affected by insecurity of high-speed vehicles traveling from 16th to 8th Street on H Street.*



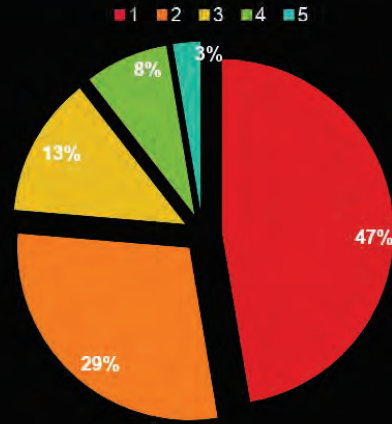
INFORME DE DATOS

- Nuestra encuesta fue diseñada para obtener una estadística más detallada para obtener mejor respuesta de la comunidad que estamos representando. Dicha encuesta contiene preguntas breves, claras y concisas para que el encuestado desee participar.
- *Our survey was designed to provide a more detailed statistic to get a better response from the community we are representing. This survey contains short, clear and concise questions for the respondent to wish to participate.*



ACTIVATION PROJECT

- Do you feel safe when you walk or bike by this area?
- Se siente Seguro cuando camina o transita en Bicicleta en esta area



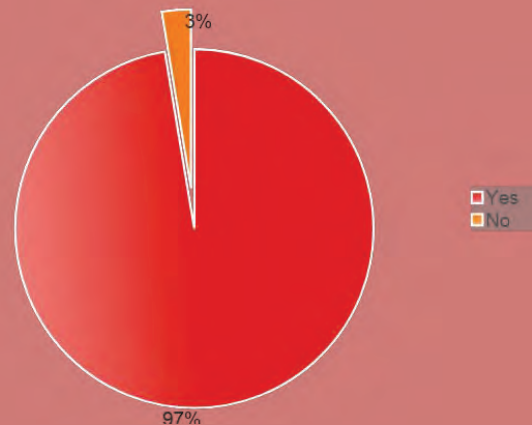
1 is Unsafe and 5 is very safe
1 muy inseguro y 5 muy seguro

Resultados de la encuesta realizada el Mayo 25 el 2023 en el Farmers Market de la Ciudad de Modesto.

Surveys delivered and collected May 25th 2023 during Farmer's Market in Modesto, CA.

ACTIVATION PROJECT

- Do you think high speed drivers make you unsafe when walking or biking in this area?
- La velocidad de los conductores me hace sentir inseguro al caminar o andar en bicicleta en esta area?



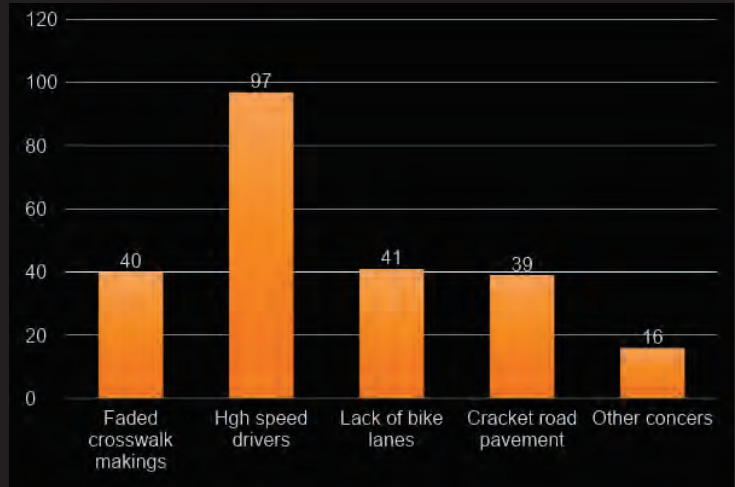
Resultados de la encuesta realizada el Mayo 25 el 2023 en el Farmers Market de la Ciudad de Modesto.

Results from surveys delivered and collected May 25th 2023 during Farmer's Market in Modesto, CA.

ACTIVATION PROJECT

- What are your concerns with pedestrian and bicycle safety at these intersection on these streets (16th to 8th on H Street?

Preocupaciones con la seguridad peatonal y ciclista en Intersecciones en calles de la 16 hasta la 8 sobre la calle H.

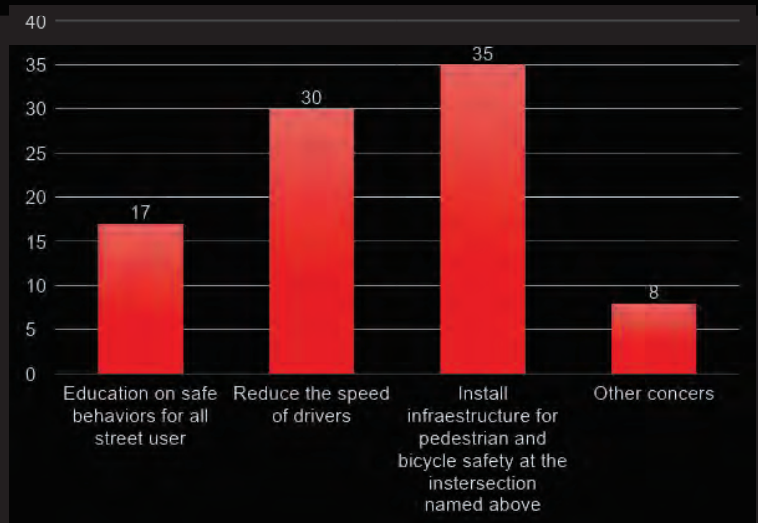


Resultados de la encuesta realizada el Mayo 25 el 2023 en el Farmers Market de la Ciudad de Modesto.

Results from surveys delivered and collected May 25th 2023 during Farmer's Market in Modesto, CA.

ACTIVATION PROJECT

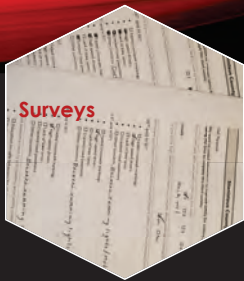
- To prevent pedestrian and bicycle crashes, what safety element do you think the City of Modesto should focus on?
- Para prevenir choques peatonales y ciclistas, en que elementos de seguridad que cree que la Ciudad de Modesto debería enfocarse?



Resultados de la encuesta realizada el Mayo 25 el 2023 en el Farmers Market de la Ciudad de Modesto.

Results from surveys delivered and collected May 25th 2023 during Farmer's Market in Modesto, CA..

EVIDENCIA FOTOGRAFICA



1. Walk Assessment
(Asesoramiento de las calles)

2. Surveys taken from vendors, farmer's market coordinator including people with disabilities.

(Encuestas tomadas a vendedores, coordinadora del Farmers Market incluyendo personas con discapacidades.



CONCLUSION

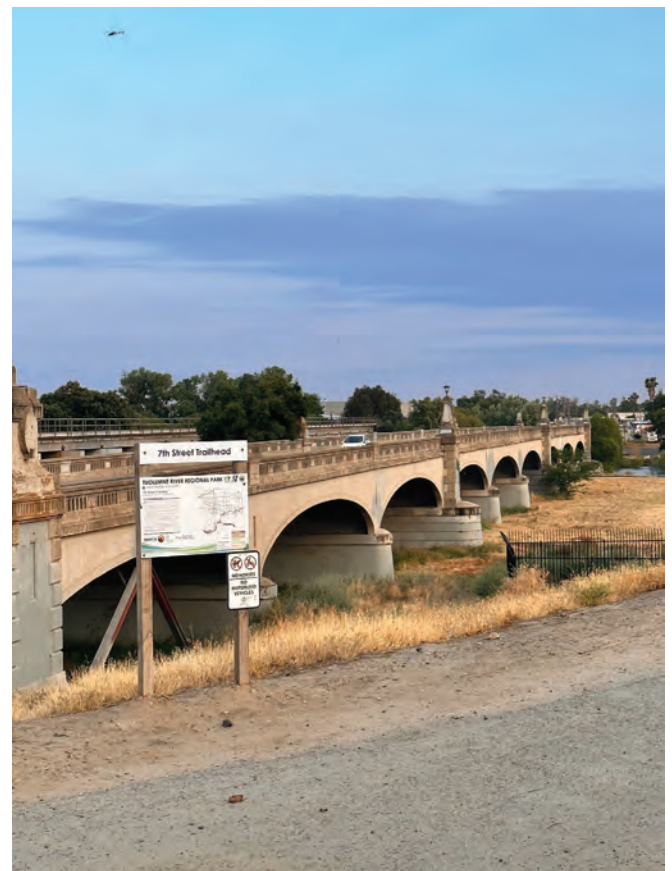
- Nuestro equipo espera ver cambios a corto y largo tiempo. Comprendemos que nuestro proyecto requiere y necesita los datos obtenidos de nuestras encuestas, fotos y récords del departamento de la Ciudad de Modesto. Y que quede apropiadamente documentado para apoyar proyectos futuros de infraestructura en las calles donde existe nuestra preocupación a sí mismo queremos que los resultados de la encuesta sean utilizados apropiadamente durante el asesoramiento de la comunidad que se hace anualmente en cada ciudad.
- Our team expects to see changes in the short and long term. We understand that our project requires and needs data obtained from our surveys, photos and records from the City of Modesto. Our team expects to be properly documented and be used during the annual community needs assessment to support future infrastructure projects on streets where there is such a concern.

ACCESS TO THE TUOLUMNE RIVER REGIONAL PARK (TRRP) TRRP RIVERWALK TRAIL - GATEWAY PARK

By Christina and Sophy

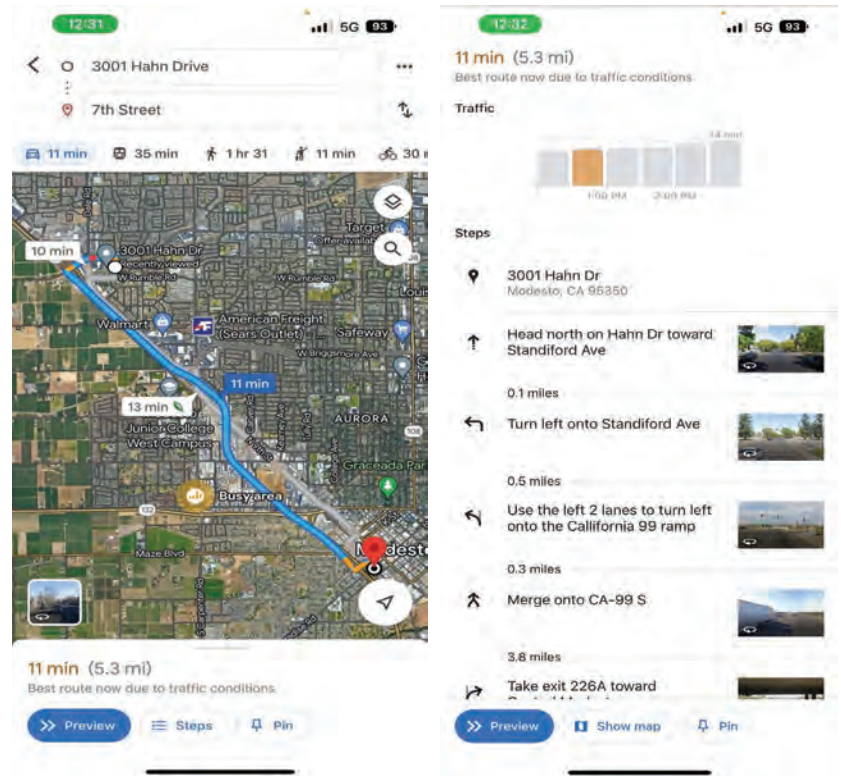
FOCUS: TUOLUMNE BIKE TRAIL

- When I followed the directions to this park I was so confused because I wasn't sure where and how to enter the parking lot safely.
- Where are you conducting your assessment: The parking lot down to the trail
- Why are you doing this: We are focusing on this particular trail because we want to explore and use this park.



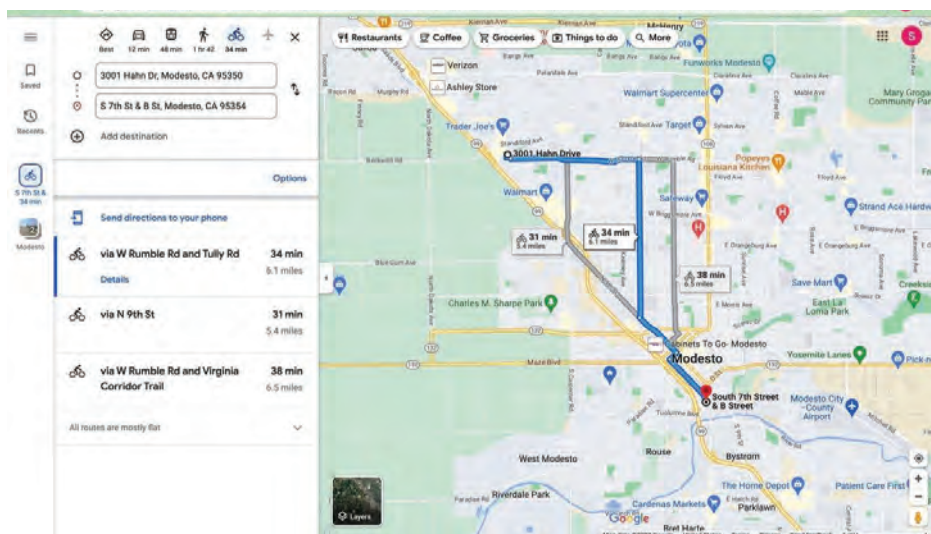
ROUTE 1: FROM THE NORTH MODESTO

- The best route to take if your taking the freeway in a vehicle from my home.

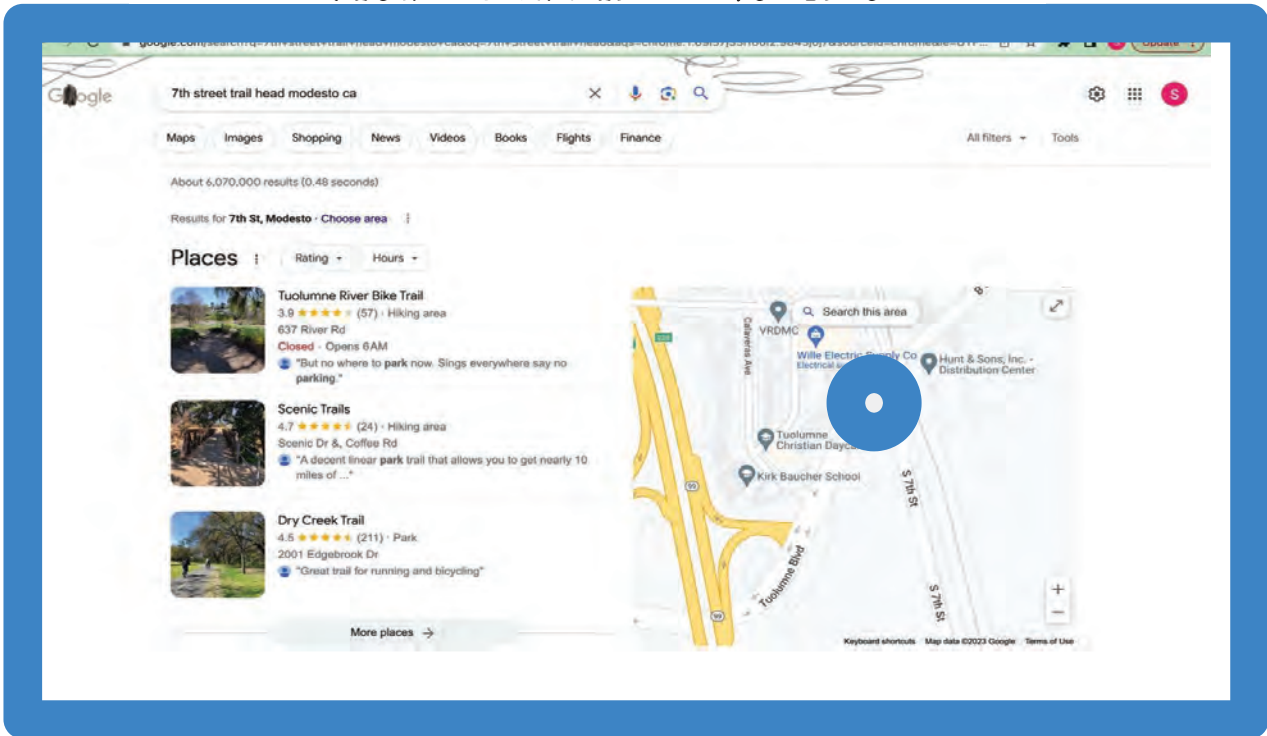


ACCESSING THE PARK BY BIKE FOR ROUTE 1

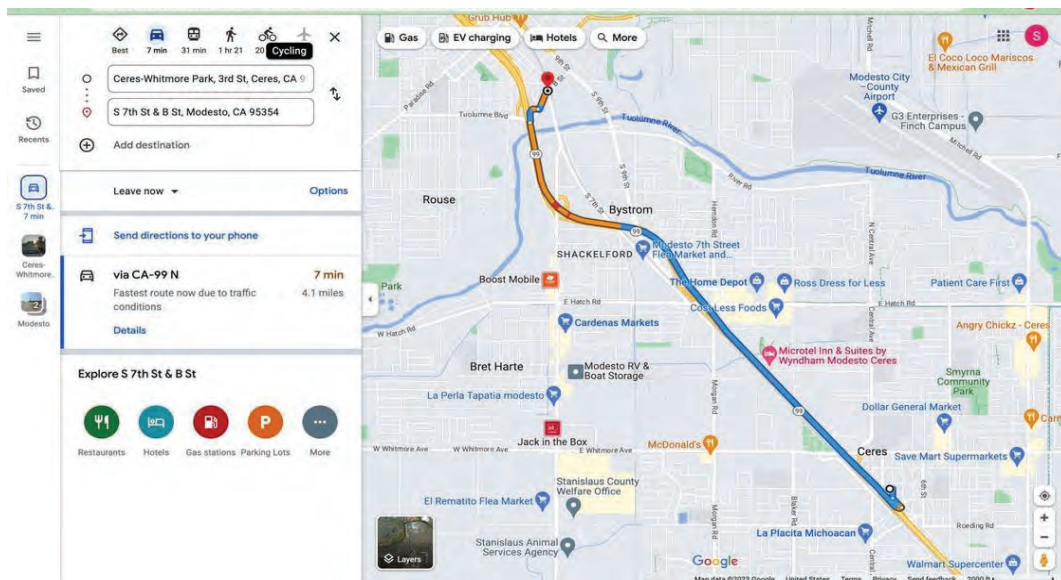
Best routes to access the park on bicycle from my home



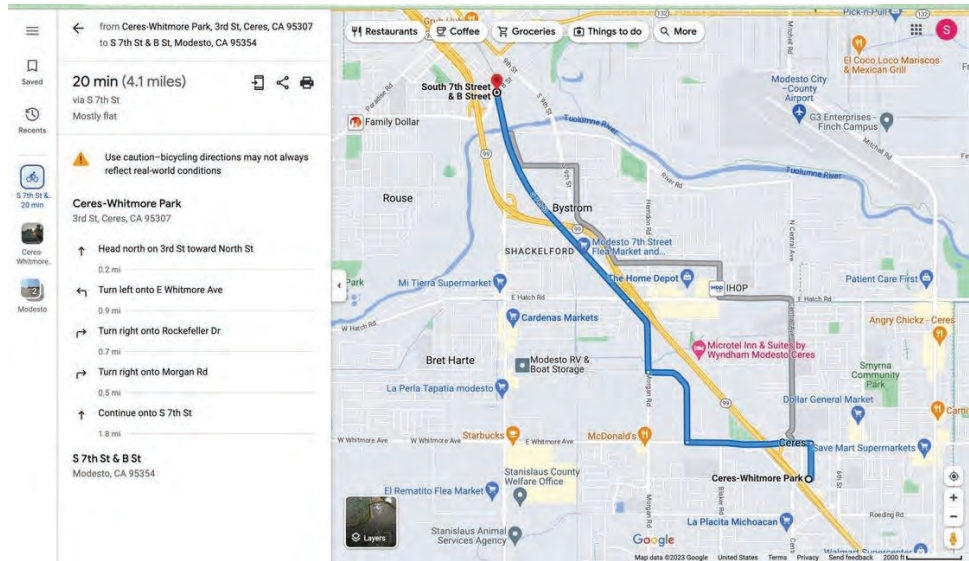
EXPLORING TRAILS IN MODESTO



ROUTE 2 IN A VEHICLE



ROUTE 2 ON A BICYCLE



ROUTE 1 ASSESSMENT

NO VISIBLE SIGN FOR PARKING IN THE PARKING LOT



THE FIRST AREA OF THE PARK AS YOU WALK OR RIDE DOWN THE TRAIL

West of of the lion bridge



Parking entrance going south from South 7th Street before entering the Lion Bridge



FLOODING CONCERNS



Due to severe flooding caused by heavy rainfall, the park became inaccessible up until late May. There was no notice to ensure the safety of visitors and prevent any potential hazards.



THE FIRST SMALL TRAIL IN THE BEGINNING OF THE PARK WITH NO INFORMATION



No information for this trail leads to the beginning of the park to the left. But a faded arrow pointing to the right of the trail before you go through the bridge. If we can make or provide signs of a map for the trail.

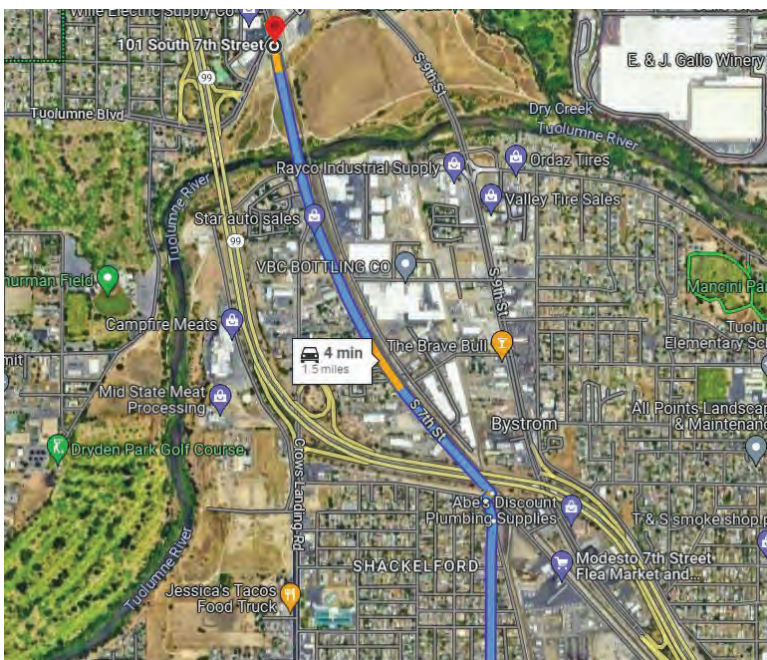


CONCERNS: FADED MILE MARKERS



ROUTE 2 ASSESSMENT

ASSESSING THE TRRP RIVERWALK TRAIL - GATEWAY PARK FROM THE SOUTH



Riding our bikes from south 7th street

The act of riding a bicycle to the specified location is considered unsafe due to the absence of dedicated lanes for cyclists and/or sidewalks in certain parts of the route.

Bike lanes are designated areas on roads specifically designed for cyclists, providing them with a separate space to ride safely away from vehicular traffic. Sidewalks, on the other hand, are pedestrian walkways that are typically separated from the road, allowing people to walk safely without being in close proximity to vehicles.

7th street is a common shortcut to Cross Landing Rd. and Hatch Road, people tend to speed through those streets daily. I personally take those streets and speeding is common.

SOUTH 7TH STREET TO BIKE PARK CHALLENGES



AERIAL VIEW OF PARK



GATEWAY PARK OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Concerns

- Accessing the part from the South
- Parking Marked as such
- Accessibility for people with disabilities
- Major Flooding and no signage of keep out
- No bathrooms
- Speeding

Strengths

- The flooding is visible
- There is a River Pavilion and Learning Theater
- Due to flooding other recreational activities were possible such as Kayaking and boating activities
- Park Website <https://modestogov.com/2942/Tuolumne-River-Regional-Park-JPA>
- Park has had 3 community meetings for public input and their master plan is located in the website.
- There are 3 scheduled meeting in the coming months
- Park has had surveys for the community to participate.
- There is additional proposed improvements for the park in a 10 year plan.

Patterson Walking and Biking Project 2023



Brianna Nanney
Noni De La Rosa

01

Activation Project



What is it about?

Work with the City of Patterson to install concrete sidewalks on Las Palmas Avenue for students, families, and community members to have a safer space to walk and bike



Activation Project Goal

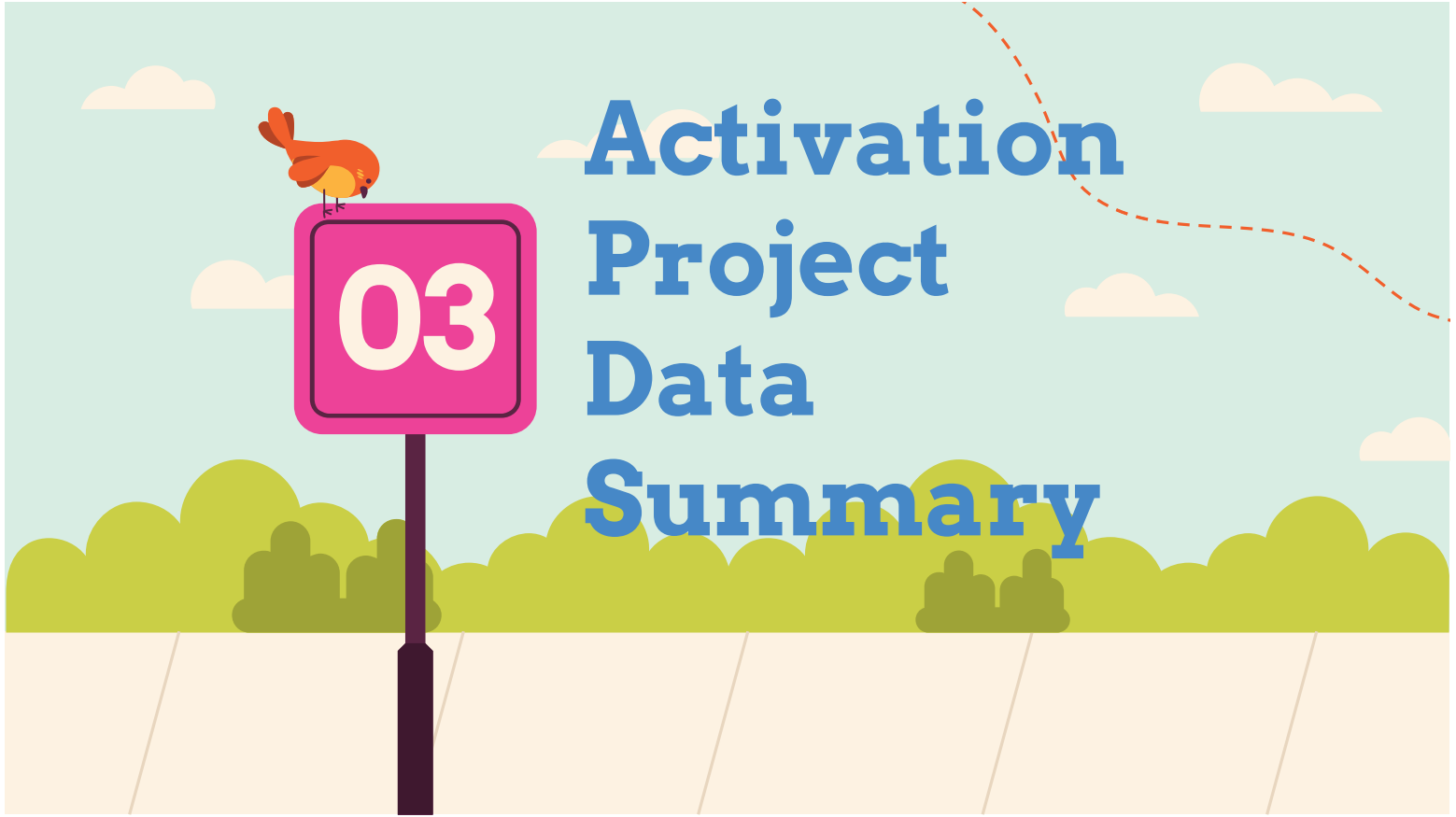


Our Goal: Safety



Create a safe space for students, families, and community members to walk or bike on Las Palmas Avenue from S. 9th Street to Ward Avenue by having concrete sidewalks installed





Identify the Problem

Lack of Sidewalks

The biggest problem with the area is the lack of proper sidewalks on Las Palmas Avenue between S. 9th Street and Ward Avenue



Why is this a problem?

This area is the main gateway between Patterson High School and the retail district of Patterson. Students from Las Palmas Elementary and Patterson High School use this walkway to get to and from school. Seniors at PHS use this walkway to get to and from lunch.



Identify Resources

Students

Students are a great resource for feedback

Community

The Community is a great resource for feedback

City of Patterson

The City of Patterson can provide guidance

Elected Officials

Elected officials can provide guidance and promote the cause



Identify Data Sources

What?

Digital and paper surveys



Where and When?

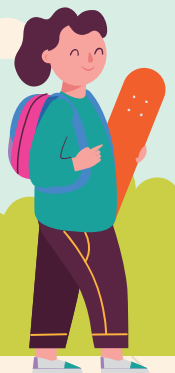
Engage with community members in the area during the evenings and students during leadership classes

Who?

Students from Patterson High School and Community Members who frequent the area

How?

Students surveyed digitally during classes and community members surveyed in person



Student Engagement

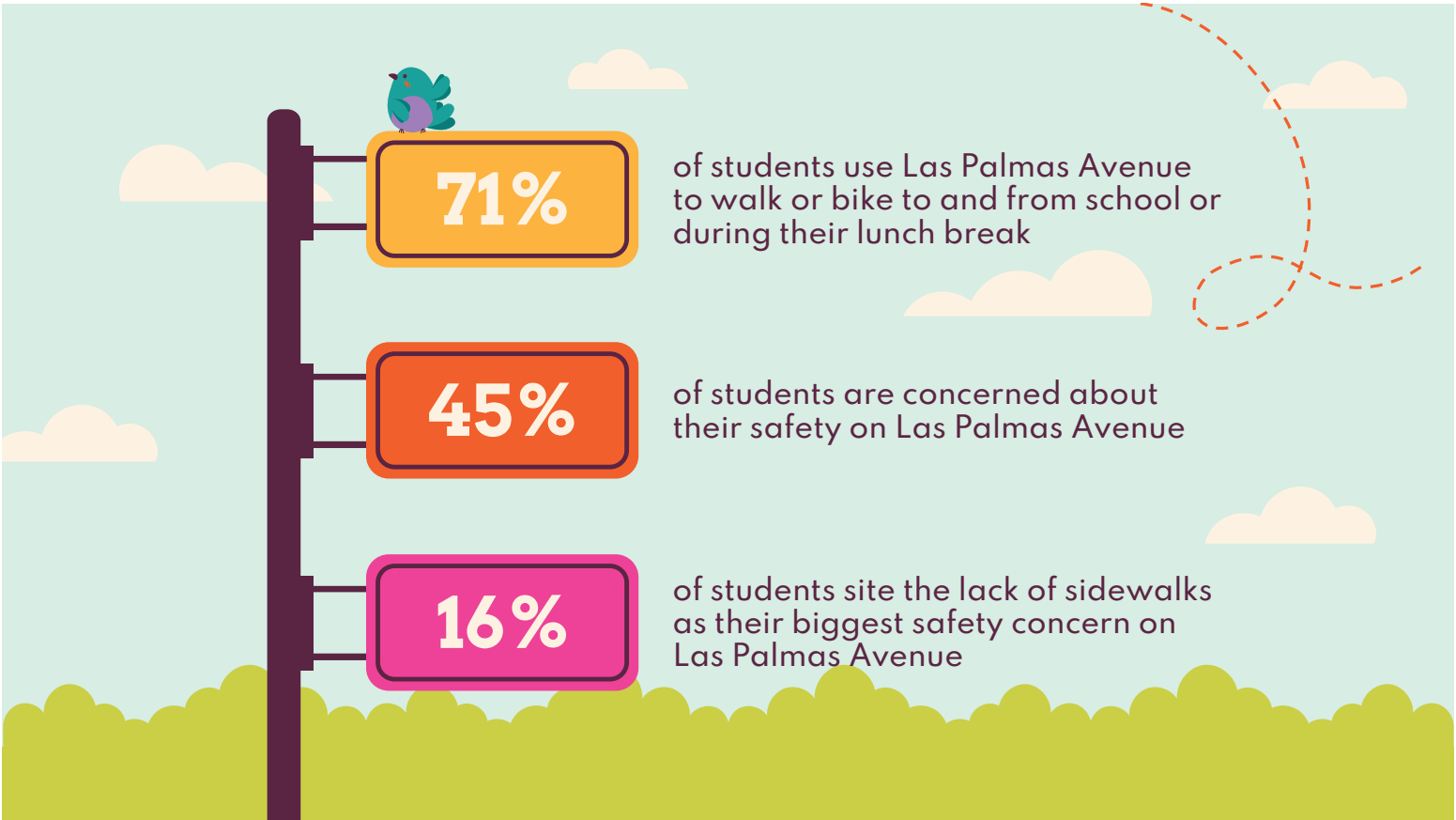
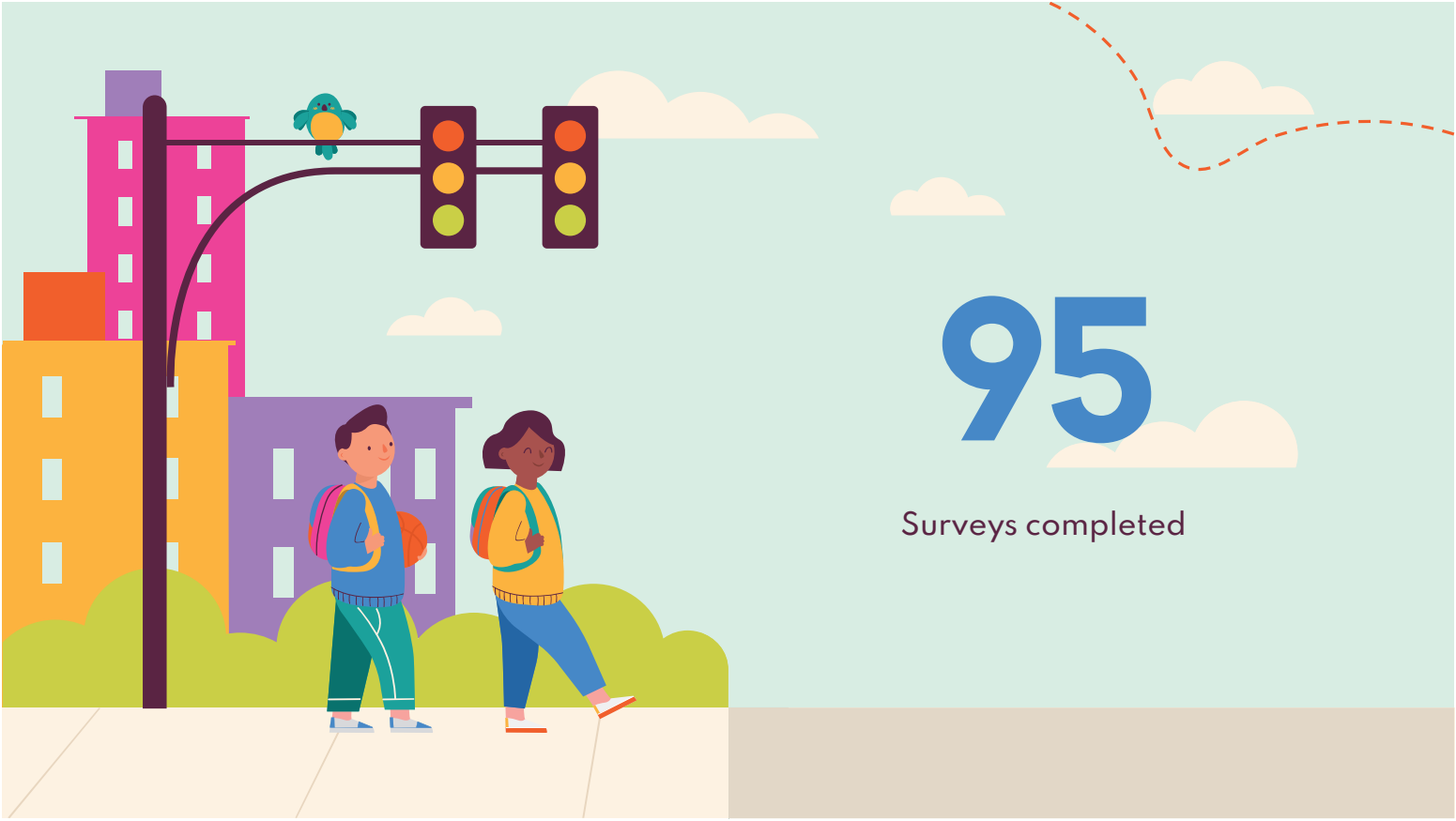


We had help from the PHS PBIS Crew and local safety services to talk to students about the safety concerns in the area!



Data Results





Safety Concerns



Activation Project Outcome

04





Activation Project Success!

The Director of Public Works for the City of Patterson has committed to installing a cement sidewalk on Las Palmas Avenue once the developer has finished their project on that parcel of land



05

Lessons Learned

What would we do differently?

Step 1

Collect data to determine issue



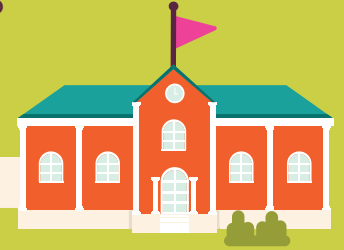
Step 2

Identify issue and resources to help address the issue



Step 3

Follow process to resolve issue



Step 4

Commitment from the City of Patterson to resolve issue







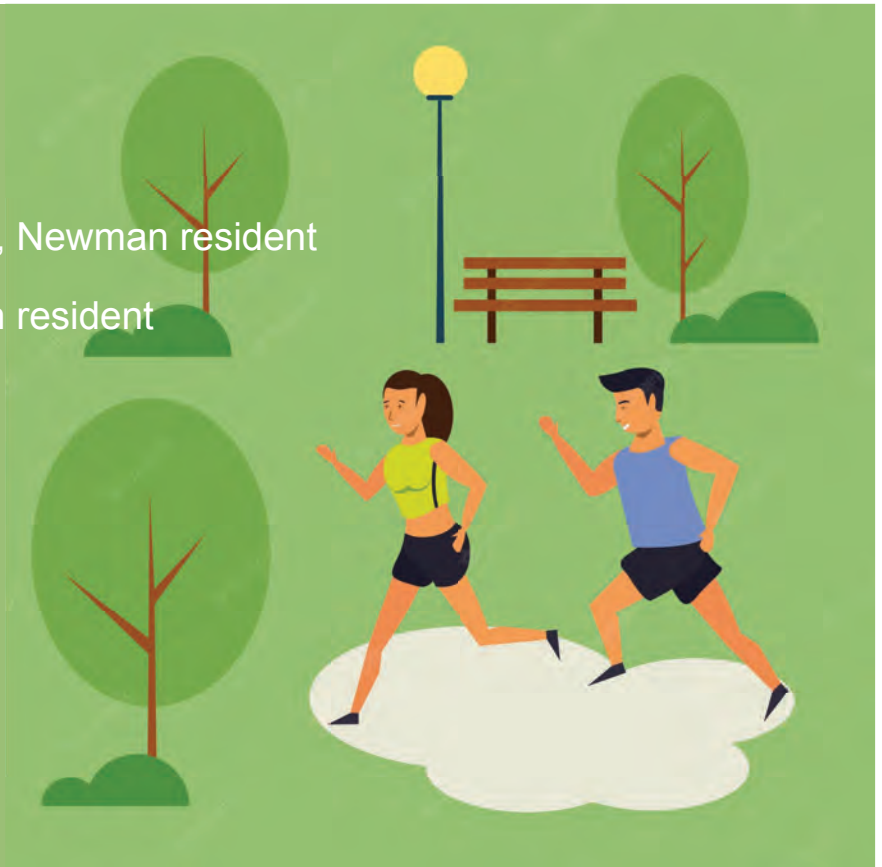
CalWalks Project

Oscar Gonzalez & Priscila Gonzalez

ABOUT US

Oscar- 22, CSU Stanislaus student, Newman resident

Priscila- 19, MJC Student, Newman resident



THE AREA - NEWMAN, CA

Population statistics (census data):

2000- 7,093

2010- 10,224

2021- 12,328

2022- 28.6% of population is under 18.

3 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school

Newman is 2.06 square miles of land (Modesto is 44.8 for comparison)

THE PARKS

18 parks in Newman

3 “main” popular parks:

- Barrington Park
- Sherman Park
- Pioneer Park

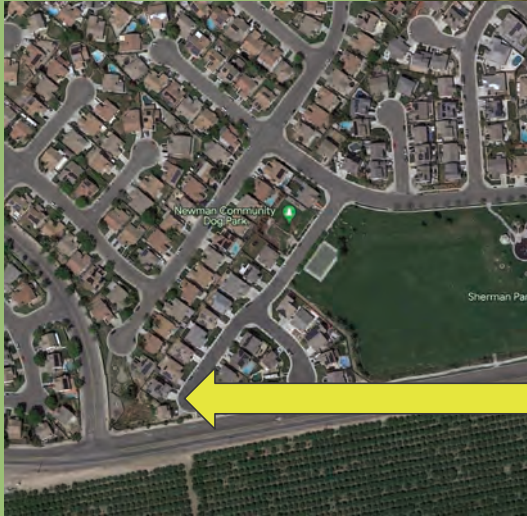
15 smaller neighborhood parks:

Alfred Bush Rose Park, Charles F. Klehn Park, Copeland Park, Harold R. Densmore Park, Howard B. Hill Jr. Park, Inyo/Stanslaus Triangle Park, Janet H. Carlsen Park, Joe Borba Park, Lions Park, Metteri Field, Monte Vista Park, Newman Community Dog Park, North Entrance Park, Yolo Park

And **Thomas G. Yancey Memorial Park**

OUR FOCUS - Thomas G. Yancey Memorial Park

Neighborhood park built in 1991



INVENTORY LOG

Of 18 parks, we will take inventory of 2:

- Thomas G. Yancey Memorial Park

- Charles F. Klehn Memorial Park

Predictions: TGYM park is underfunded and forgotten. CFKM park has had a recent renovation and will have more/better amenities available.

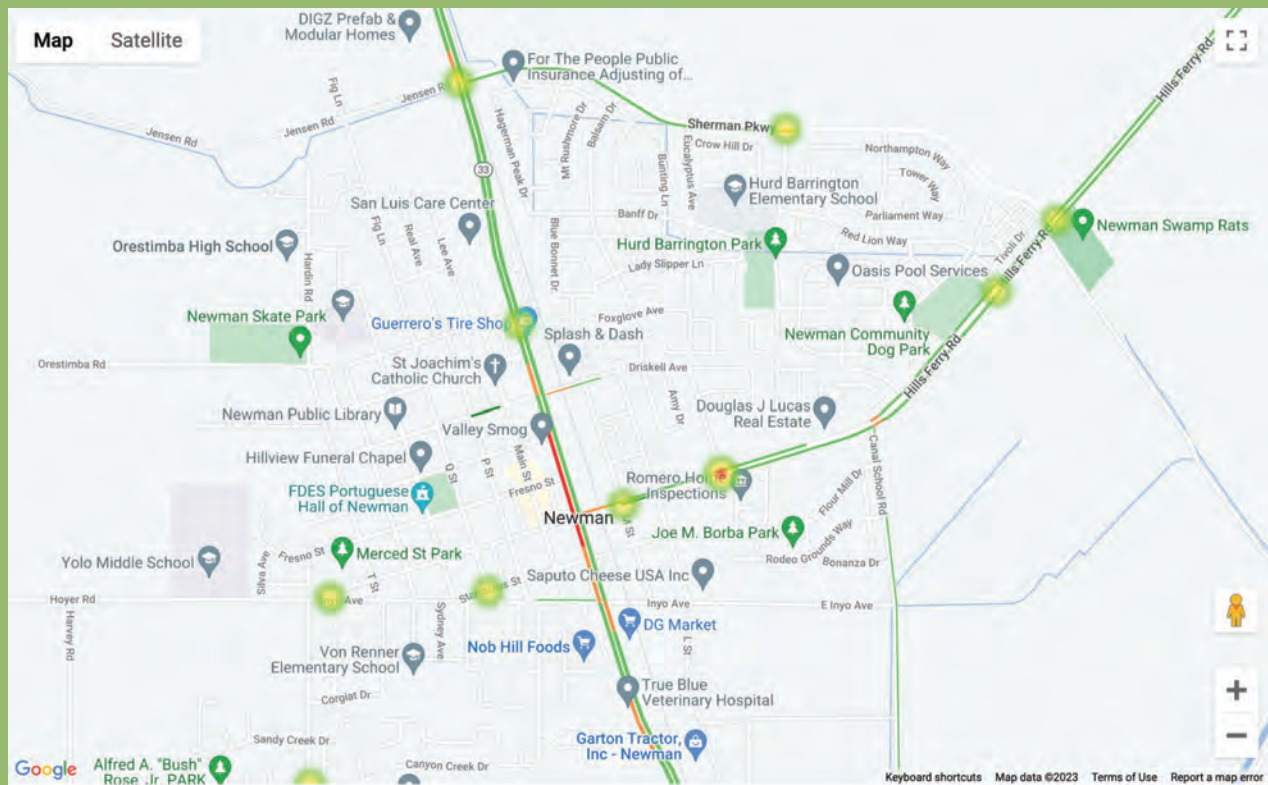


CRASH SUMMARY REPORT

21-22

18:00-20:59	1	0
15:00-17:59	0	4
12:00-14:59	1	0
09:00-11:59	0	0
06:00-08:59	1	0
03:00-05:59	0	0
00:00-02:59	0	0
	1 + Monday	2 - Tuesday

Type of Crash	Count	%
B - Sideswipe	3	21.43%
C - Rear End	2	14.29%
D - Broadside	7	50.00%
G - Vehicle/Pedestrian	1	7.14%
H - Other	1	7.14%



Survey

Distributed physically with flyers

Distributed electronically via
FaceBook/Instagram/Twitter

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrXEBw44hiQtvC2ngT6h6F8hGbDlzNxRhpn6X8_2mRwPKjSg/viewform?usp=sf_link

HELP MAKE NEWMAN'S PARKS BETTER!

Do you live in Newman?

Do you use Newman parks?

Are you concerned with the current state of parks like Thomas G. Yancey Memorial Park?

Newman's parks deserve our attention. Voice your concerns and suggestions with this 5-minute survey.

Scan this QR code to take the survey!



Want to bring the Champion program to your community?

Contact us

info@calwalks.org or visit calwalks.org

