City and Borough of Juneau

Jackie Rennie Park
35% Design Public Meeting

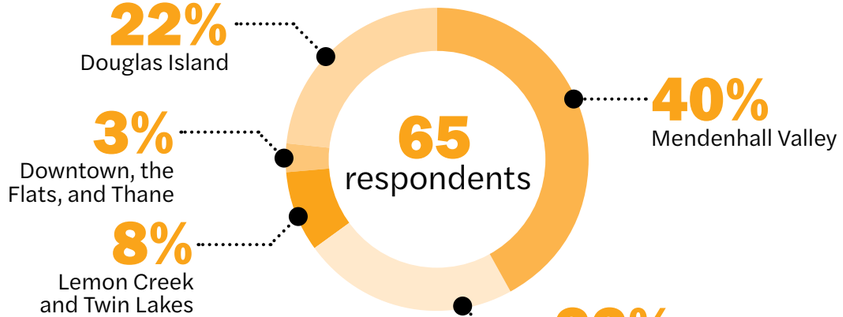
PUBLIC INPUT

The 35% design represents an advancement of the 5-acre park in the lower Mendenhall Valley and builds on the previously developed 2025 park master plan to produce a formal schematic package. The formal schematic package provides sufficient detail on facilities and materials to refine the layout and sizing of park amenities, verify technical feasibility, and provide more accurate construction costs.

The 35% design was presented to over 40 attendees on January 28, 2026 at the Valley Public Library. Participants asked the design team and parks and recreation staff questions, and were encouraged to complete a questionnaire at the meeting or fill out a Comment Collector digitally via SurveyMonkey. The results are summarized below and include 55 comments collected over a two week period, including several letters.

It is worth noting that previous public engagement as part of the master planning effort had high participation by the pickleball community, and their participation in this engagement was low. This may result from seeing their priorities represented in the park master plan. There was also a significant community groundswell for those who desired the inclusion of a seasonal ice rink as part of the design, but was not included in the 35% park design.

Where do respondents live?



What park activities are respondents interested in?

22% will use the **Skate Park**

28% will play **Pickleball** at the park

22% will play on the **Playground**

28% will play **Disc Golf**

38% are interested in **Loop Trails** and **Exercise Stations**

23% will enjoy the **Day Use Facilities**

20% will bring their pooches to the **Dog Park**

32% are interested in the **Multi-use Courts**

55 open comments made

51% desire a **seasonal outdoor rink** be incorporated into the **final design.**

Open comments...

29% of respondents commented on **pickleball courts.**

Comments ranged from **noise concerns** to making them available for **other activities.**

Other activities...

52% of respondents are interested in an **Outdoor Ice Rink**

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Public Comment Summary

As part of the community engagement and providing public input via the Comment Collector, participants were provided the opportunity to provide their thoughts and comments on the project. The following summarizes what was provided in the open-ended comment portion of the Comment Collector. Public responses are also included on the following pages.

1. High Demand for Ice Rink Facilities

By far the most frequent specific request was the addition of an **outdoor seasonal ice rink**.

- **Capacity Issues:** Users noted that Treadwell Arena is "bursting at the seams," leading to late-night practices (as late as 9:30 PM) for elementary-aged children.
- **Multi-use Potential:** Many suggested a seasonal "refrigerated" or flooded court that serves as pickleball courts in the summer and a rink in the winter. There was the desire by some for covering the rink and pickleball courts.
- **Community Support:** Multiple commenters indicated that the hockey and figure skating communities would be highly vocal and willing to assist with fundraising and/or maintenance.

2. Debate Over Pickleball Courts

While acknowledged as a growing sport, the inclusion of **8 pickleball courts** was polarizing.

- **Climate Concerns:** Several residents questioned the utility of uncovered courts in Juneau's rainy environment, suggesting they would sit empty for most of the year.
- **Noise and Demographics:** Neighbors raised concerns about the "loud" nature of the sport. Some argued that the park should focus on youth-centric facilities rather than "adult sports" like pickleball.
- **Optimization:** Suggestions included covering the courts, reducing the number, or ensuring they are designed for multi-sport use (e.g., tennis or roller hockey).
- **Past Engagement:** The pickleball community has been a vocal group throughout the master planning effort and validated the need for eight courts. It is likely that when this user group saw their programming requests included in the preferred park plan, that their engagement in the design portion of the project declined as they felt they had already been heard.

3. Skate Park Enhancements

There is strong support for the existing skate park, but with a focus on modernization.

- **Full Coverage:** A major theme was the need to **fully roof/enclose** the skate area to protect the concrete from moisture and make it usable year-round.
- **Technical Design:** One commenter noted that experts must handle the concrete design to prevent unsafe "sweating" or condensation common in rainforest climates.

- **Fundraising:** There is interest in community fundraising specifically for the skate park roof and creating a larger covered facility.

4. Financial and Maintenance Concerns

A significant portion of the feedback focused on the **$14M price tag** and long-term upkeep.

- **Fiscal Priorities:** Some residents feel the project is "out of touch" given Juneau's recent natural disasters (flooding, landslides) and school budget issues.
- **"Mission Creep":** Critics argued the city should focus on "refurbishing" what exists rather than building a "mega-project."
- **Maintenance:** Concerns were raised that the city cannot maintain its current smaller parks, leading to fears that a larger facility will eventually become run-down.
- **Needed Facility:** Others stated that all facilities in the park plan are critical parks and recreation needs at the neighborhood and community level. Many felt that despite the price tag, the city should pursue funding and that the design is well thought-out.

5. Accessibility and Infrastructure

- **Neighborhood Impact:** Residents in the immediate area generally view the park as a "huge benefit" for a location that currently lacks walking access to playgrounds.
- **Safety and Lighting:** Commenters requested focus on safety lighting, security cameras, and winter maintenance for walking trails.
- **Modern Amenities:** Suggestions included adding level-2 EV chargers in the parking lot, good lighting throughout, and ample power outlets for community events and supporting food trucks.
- **No Change:** A few members of the public believe the park and its trees should be left ‘as-is’ and that only improvements should be made to the skate park, when needed.

6. Other Facility Suggestions

- **Dog Parks:** Some residents highlighted a lack of dedicated dog parks in the Valley and the need to include a dog park. Others felt it was unneeded in the park.
- **Disc Golf:** Some questioned the appropriateness/demand for disc golf in this specific area; however, there appears to be a high demand for this activity in the park.