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COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

(This is meant to be a breathing document)

This Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is an opportunity for the Petaluma River Park Foundation to understand the Petaluma community's strengths and needs. The results of the CHNA will be used to guide and inform a community-led process that will ask the local community to dream about a Petaluma River Park that will connect people, art, and nature. The strengths and needs of the Petaluma community are outlined in three sections: (1) nature, (2) people, (3) and art.

In the nature section, we outline aspects of the environment and nature that relate to Petaluma communities, including climate, natural resources, environmental justice issues, and conservation needs. For people, we outline aspects most urgent to community well-being, including transportation, housing, health and well-being, education, and community spaces. Lastly, we briefly outline the arts in Petaluma, highlighting the civic and community efforts of the arts community as well as the areas of interest for future arts initiatives.

About Petaluma

Petaluma is located in southern Sonoma County 40 miles north of San Francisco. According to the American Community Survey (2015-2019), Petaluma's population of 58,652 has increased at a steady pace and has had the most growth (7%) since 2010 compared to neighboring cities. Over the next two decades, the population growth in Petaluma is anticipated to increase by 11 percent.

PETALUMA RESIDENTS

Households

- Petaluma has 22,655 households; 53.6% are “married-couple family households” and 6.5% are “other non-family households” ([ACS, 2015-2019](#)).
- In 2020, the average household size in Petaluma was 2.65 individuals per household ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).
- Approximately 28 percent of households in Petaluma qualify as lower income households ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).

Age

- The median age for Petaluma is 41.7 years ([ACS, 2015-2019](#)).
- 17% of individuals in Petaluma are children aged 14 and under and their percentage has decreased since the last American Community Survey ([ACS, 2015-2019](#)).

- 32% of residents in Petaluma are aged 55 and up. Their number has increased in number and in 2019 they comprised one-third of Petaluma’s residents ([ACS, 2015-2019](#)).
 - 6.6% is 75 and older ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
 - Since 2000, the population ages 65 and up has increased by 57.7% ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).

Race and Ethnicity

- Population estimates from 2022 indicate that compared to Sonoma County, Petaluma has a higher percentage of White residents (68.1%) compared to 60.6% countywide ([US Census Bureau](#) Population Estimates, 2022).
- Sonoma County’s Hispanic/Latinx population (27%) is higher than Petaluma’s, while the percentages of Black/African Americans (1.1%), Asian/API (4.5%) and “Other Race” residents are similar (4.4%) ([ACS, 2015-2019](#)).

Income

- In 2019, the median household income in Petaluma (\$91,528) was 13% higher than Sonoma County and 22% higher than the state of California ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
 - The median income for white households is (\$95,630):
 - 9% higher than for biracial and multiracial households (\$87, 384).
 - 17% higher than for Asian households (\$81, 897).
 - 21% higher than for Hispanic/Latinx households (\$79,314).
 - 23% higher than for Black households (\$77, 708).
- In 2021, the median income in Petaluma for individuals was \$100,379, which was higher than Sonoma County overall (\$91,607) ([ACS, 2017-2021](#)).
- In 2021, approximately 5.9% of Petaluma’s population lived below the poverty level ([ACS, 2017-2021](#)).

Religion

- 35.9% of the population in Petaluma are affiliated with a religion and the most popular denomination is Catholic ([Bestplaces.net as cited by Blue Zones, 2022](#)).

Disabilities

- 5,495 Petaluma residents are identified as having one or more disabilities (i.e., this number is for individuals who are not institutionalized), representing nine percent of Petaluma’s population ([ACS, 2015-2019](#)).

Employment

- One-third of jobs in Petaluma are in the health and educational services industries; approximately 20% of jobs are in the financial and professional services industry; and 16% are in manufacturing, wholesale, and transportation sectors ([ACS, 2015-2019](#)).

Homelessness

- The most recent “homeless” count and survey for Sonoma County was conducted in 2022 using HUD-recommended practices. This count identified 293 “homeless” [terminology used by the survey] individuals in Petaluma. Of this total, 79 had shelter and 214 were unsheltered ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).

Strengths

NATURE

Climate and Environment

- Petaluma has approximately 260 sunny days per year, offering ample time to enjoy its outdoor beauty, parks, trails, and the Petaluma River ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- The City of Petaluma has expressed a commitment to achieving greenhouse gas carbon neutrality by 2030 and has adopted an all-electric code. This code requires all new buildings (homes and businesses) to use clean electricity-based systems in place of pollution-causing natural gas options. The City of Petaluma has indicated that “electrical emissions from buildings, facilities, streetlights/traffic signals, and airport facilities are currently near zero because the City of Petaluma’s provider is Sonoma Clean Power EverGreen, which is 100% renewable ([City of Petaluma, 2021, “All-Electric Code”](#)).

Water and Land

- Petaluma is “bisected by the Petaluma River and under the backdrop of the Sonoma Mountains ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).”
- The Petaluma River, which is 19 miles long, is a cornerstone of the culture and identity of the city, and a central part of downtown’s revitalization efforts ([Blue Zones, 2022; City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).
- The main waterways in the city include the Petaluma River, Adobe Creek, Lynch Creek, Lichau Creek, and smaller branches such as Willow Brook ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).

PEOPLE

Housing

- Petaluma has partnered with nonprofit organizations to promote low-income and affordable housing development. These organizations include the Housing Land Trust of Sonoma County, DANCO Communities, PEP Housing, MidPen Housing, Burbank Housing, and Eden Housing ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).
- According to the City of Petaluma, 22% of all the housing units built in the city over the past 15 years, are housing units for low-income families ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).
- “Petaluma’s housing has grown at a rate of about 260 units per year since 2015.” ([Urban Land Institute TAP Report, 2021](#))
- Petaluma has a Permanent Local Housing Allocation fund budget of approximately \$470,000 as of the 2019-2020 fiscal year and is eligible for up to \$250,000 annually. This creates significant opportunities for housing development and the potential establishment of more affordable housing communities. PLHA funds are used primarily to increase people at risk of losing their house, increase the supply of low-income housing, and alleviate the need for housing construction and affordability citywide ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).
- Petaluma People Services Center has been a strength in supporting with unhousing prevention and a widespread support team for unhoused clients willing to transform and adapt to new and changing scenarios.
- End any new projects that could be described as “hostile architecture” and remove any current “hostile architecture” projects in place. This will improve the quality of life for Petaluma’s unhoused and benefits the petaluma community universally, as hostile design oftentimes disproportionately impacts seniors and those with disabilities and utilizes funds that could be dedicated towards housing, harm reduction, and prevention of unhousing conditions for Sonoma County people.

Transportation

- The Petaluma River Park is near the SMART train station, several bus stops, and it’s within easy walking distance of downtown ([Petaluma River Park Foundation, 2022](#)).
- In 2022, Petaluma passed its *Zero Vision Resolution*, a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).

Train

- Petaluma is served by the SMART station located adjacent to the Petaluma Transit Mall on Copeland Street ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).

Bus

- Petaluma is served by three intercity routes operated by Sonoma County Transit. Lines 40, 44, and 48 allow cross-county bus transportation to and from Petaluma ([Sonoma County Transit Map, 2023](#)). Sonoma County Paratransit provides transportation services for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use lift-equipped fixed-route buses.

Bike

- Petaluma has several bike routes. Proposed plans of expansive biking system pathways across Petaluma will help further create more accessible transportation. ([Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).

Walk

- Petaluma's Lynch Creek Trail offers an opportunity for pedestrians to cross from the west side to the east side of Petaluma away from cars ([River Access and Enhancement Plan, 2019](#)).
- The Petaluma River Trail allows pedestrians to enjoy the Petaluma River from end to end. Although the trail is not fully complete, there is a plan to complete it as new development occurs near the river ([River Access and Enhancement Plan, 2019](#)).
- In 2003, Petaluma adopted a *SmartCode*, a new type of land development regulation that aims to support more compact and walkable streets and neighborhoods ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).

Commute

- 22,000 of individuals commute into Petaluma every day, 6,000 live and work in Petaluma, and 19,000 commute out of Petaluma for work ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).

Education

- In 2019, more than 90 percent (90.4%) of residents had a high school degree or higher, while more than 40 percent (40.4%) had a bachelor's degree or higher ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).
- The Petaluma area is served by 13 public school districts and 36 public schools, including 7 charter schools and 3 historic "one-room" schoolhouses. Twelve of Petaluma's public

schools are California Distinguished schools and 4 are Federal Blue Ribbon Schools ([The City of Petaluma, Petaluma Schools. 2023](#)).

- Petaluma schools score 7 out of 10 in terms of score card ([Greatschools.org](#)). Ratings at the lower end of the scale (1-4) signal that the school is “below average,” 5-6 indicate “average,” and 7-10 are “above average.”
- Petaluma City “Schools rank in the 99th (grades 7-8) and 95th (grades 9-12) percentiles in creating a positive safe school culture and climate when ranked against other schools in California” ([Blue Zones, 2022; Healthy Kids Survey, 2023](#)).

Technology

- 100% of Petaluma is covered by 4G networks and 70.8% is covered by 5G networks.
- Petaluma offers public access television and radio stations ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- According to the US Census, 96% of Petaluma households have a computer, and 92% have an internet subscription, which allows for access to the internet and digital resources that are essential for career and education ([ACS, 2017-2021](#)).

Health and Wellbeing

- There are an estimated 400 non-profits in Petaluma dedicated to supporting the health and wellbeing of Petalumans and their loved ones ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- There are 45-50 stores and markets that sell groceries in Petaluma ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- According to the Blue Zones Project, Petaluma residents benefit from the significant participation of nonprofit organizations within health-based programs, food systems, access, and the provision of educational and wellness services ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Petaluma is committed to becoming a zero-waste city by 2030 ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Petaluma has the ability to locally enforce its alcohol policy, has a Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs (LEAD) Program, and a comprehensive self-directed mental health recovery and wellness program accessible to anyone. (Blue Zones 2023)

ART

- Petaluma is known for its variety of visual, fine arts, performing, and decorative arts. There are more than 30 outdoor public art pieces around the city, including murals, sculptures, arches, and a community-built fountain. Public art installations in Petaluma include David Best’s River Arch installation and Sara Downing’s “Visualizarch” in Putnam Plaza ([Templeton, 2023](#)).

- The downtown district has over a dozen galleries and exhibits ranging from handcrafted jewelry to paintings, textiles, and sculptures by contemporary local, national, and international artists ([Visit Petaluma, Petaluma's Art Galleries, 2023](#)).
 - The Petaluma Arts Center, which is located next to the Visitors Center at the corner of Lakeville and Washington Streets, features rotating exhibits, classes, concerts, and theatrical events ([Visit Petaluma, Petaluma's Art Galleries, 2023](#)).
 - For more than 60 years, the Petaluma Arts Association has hosted the fall “Art in the Park”, an annual two-day showcase of fine art at Walnut Park ([Visit Petaluma, Art in the Park, 2023](#)).
 - Petaluma has recently benefited from Imagine Petaluma’s Fairgrounds, a community storytelling exhibit. This exhibit allows community participation in reimagining the Petaluma Fairgrounds while providing an artistic outlet for community members to express their creativity and emotion concerning their memories of the fair ([Imagine Petaluma's Fairgrounds, 2023](#)).
 - In 2023, Huru, a 38-foot-tall wind-activated sculpture was installed at the Petaluma River Park. This sculpture by Mark di Suvero is on long-term loan from the McKegney family to the Petaluma River Park ([City of Petaluma, New Sculpture, 2023](#)).
 - Petaluma is known for its culinary arts. In Petaluma, there are 150 restaurants ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
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Needs

NATURE

Climate and Environment

Expansion of outdoor gathering places

- Environmental spaces such as parks positively impact mental and public health outcomes ([Boone et al. 2009](#)). Therefore, outdoor gathering places and recreational, entertainment, and civic opportunities that connect intergenerational and cross-racial communities are needed across neighborhoods, especially in high-density housing zones ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).

Protect and restore the Petaluma River and its tributaries

- It is necessary to protect and restore the natural function of the Petaluma River and its tributaries. Surrounding the Petaluma River, there appears to be higher-than-average

hazardous waste pollution, nearby lead risk, excessive use of pesticides, drinking water contaminant pollution, environmental pollution cleanup sites, waterbody pollution, proximity to solid waste sites, groundwater threats, and significant traffic impacts ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).

Address environmental injustice in 8 specific census tracts

- 8 census tracts in Petaluma (1512.01, 1506.07, 1506.09, 1509.01, 1510, 1508, 1506.03, 1506.01), primarily on the Eastern/Northern side of Petaluma, are impacted by environmental injustice. These tracts have a higher number of low-income and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities and higher adverse health outcomes such as asthma, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and a shorter life expectancy. Seven out of 8 of these tracts are located within 1,000 feet of Highway 101, leading to significant air, noise, water, and other environmental pollution burdens ([City of Petaluma General Plan, 2021](#)).
- In Petaluma, Census Tracts 1509.01, and 1512.01 have higher levels of “Pollution Burden:” a metric describing the combined effects of pollution exposure (i.e., air pollution, groundwater pollution, pesticide use, traffic impacts, housing lead risk, water contaminants, etc.) and environmental pollutants (i.e., cleanup sites, waste sites, and facilities, etc.; [City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)). “Environmentally-polluting disamenities” in Petaluma such as contaminated land and hazardous waste sites as well as “environmental amenities” such as parks, green areas, and gathering spaces are disproportionately distributed by race.

Address the significant greenhouse gas emissions from transportation

- Significant Greenhouse Gas Emissions from transportation and employee travel is an urgent area of pollution to address ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).

PEOPLE

Housing

- The “Just Cause” Petaluma Ordinance does not address rent increases, which can annually compound and act as a burden to renters. Additionally, since gentrification contributes to higher housing values, increasing rent prices to further gentrify Petaluma may result in the displacement of communities ([City of Petaluma, Guide to Tenant Protection, 2020](#)).
- Median gross rent is \$2,144 ([ACS, 2017-2021](#)). The high cost of rent in Petaluma may create a financial barrier towards long-term housing for low-income communities.
- Overcrowding, which is defined as more than one person per room, is present in renting households significantly more than in owning households. 8% of renting households are

overcrowded compared to 2% of owning households ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).

- Widespread Housing Segregation based upon race, ethnicity, and income between the eastern and western sides of Petaluma is indicative of a greater problem surrounding the presence of racialized capitalism and systemic and institutional racism throughout the city's history (Blue Zones 2023) ([Press Democrat](#)) ([Othering and Belonging Institute](#)) ([Sheehy](#))

Transportation

- The mean travel time to work is 31.3 minutes for workers aged 16 and older, highlighting a significant impact of commute times on labor and a lack of adequate public transport ([ACS, 2017-2021](#)).
- Petaluma residents desire to (a) connect the East and West sides of town (b) increase mobility and safety for bikers and pedestrians as well as (c) invest in light rail or commuter rail ([Blue Zones, 2022](#))
- According to the Blue Zones report (2022), the city should explore temporary uses or other ways to activate the vacant land around the rail station.
- There is a need for the city to have a comprehensive Complete Streets Policy. "Complete Streets" are streets designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all users ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).

Education

- According to Petaluma's School Accountability Report Cards ([Petaluma City Schools, 2021-2022, SARC](#)) and news reports ([Frances, 2023](#)), there are:
 - High School/9-12:
 - Disproportionate suspensions, expulsions, and lower academic scores for racial/ethnic minorities, English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and lower income communities.
 - Ongoing school safety concerns county-wide, including several incidents of school violence and/or threats of violence at Casa Grande and Petaluma High School.
 - Junior High School / 6-8:
 - Disproportionate academic achievement outcomes along socioeconomic lines.

- According to YouthTruth Data on Petaluma City Schools ([Petaluma City Schools, 2023, Youth Truth](#)):
 - Parents identify school safety, relationships with school staff, and communication with school as significant issues across elementary, middle, and high schools in Petaluma.
 - School staff reported a consistent lack of professional development opportunities and support, and are concerned about school safety in middle schools and elementary schools (note: The High School report was not available on the website.)
 - Compared to California schools, students in Petaluma consistently had:
 - lower than average engagement scores (22-33 percentile(s) across grades).
 - Low academic challenge scores (22-32 percentile).
 - Low relationship scores (30-34 percentile).
 - Consistently low mental health and emotional well-being scores (27-31 percentile);
 - Low Project-Based Learning engagement in elementary school (22%) and high school (38%);

Economic

- The median monthly cost of housing is 20% higher in Petaluma than in the state of California.
- There is a growing wealth gap, a high cost of living and housing, and increased homelessness ([Blue Zones, 2022](#))
- Seniors live in hidden poverty ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- There is an ongoing housing crisis at the Youngstown Mobile Home Park due to rising housing prices, lack of affordability, and fear of eviction ([Ramos 2023, CBS Bay Area](#))

Health and Wellbeing

- At least 25% of elementary, middle, and high school students report feeling often stressed or stressed all the time ([Petaluma City Schools, 2023, Youth Truth](#)).
- 25% of middle school students and 35% of high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks ([Petaluma City Schools, 2023, Youth Truth](#)).

- Locally, more than 20% of high school students have reported having serious thoughts of suicide and about 10% have attempted to take their own lives ([Petaluma City Schools, 2023, Youth Truth](#)).
- According to Kaiser's 2022 needs assessment, the percentage of years of potential life lost due to suicide is highest in Santa Rosa (8 percent), followed by Petaluma and Sonoma Valley (7 percent).
- There does not seem to be a dedicated program teaching nutrition in the schools ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- When compared to "other MSAs, Petaluma has a 13% higher prevalence rate of tobacco use" ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Petaluma's alcohol culture appears to have a significant negative effect on the health and well-being of its community, with DUIs appearing to increase by 79% from 2021 to 2022, and co-occur where there are higher saturations of alcohol licenses in the area, specifically in central and eastern Petaluma (Blue Zones 2023)
- Systemic racism is prevalent in Petaluma, which creates a wide breadth of adverse individual and community health impacts. (Blue Zones 2023)
- Lack of alcohol prevention initiatives and sobering beds in Petaluma communities (Blue Zones 2023)
- Binge drinking rates are higher than national average (19.5% vs 15%) (Blue Zones 2023)

ART

- There do not appear sufficient or diverse opportunities for youth to create public art beyond the curated city or private gallery spaces, reducing opportunities for youth to create more lasting cultural impact in their communities.

Opportunities

Climate and Environment

- Increase river access to create more opportunities to walk along the river, gather, and connect with others ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Introduce a series of visually engaging experiences and art along the Petaluma River waterfront ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Restore the ecological system that was present before Petaluma city development and revitalize the Petaluma River ecosystem with native plants ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).

- Expand community garden locations across all neighborhoods in Petaluma ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Establish incentives for investing in and implementing solar panels in homes across Petaluma, especially in socioeconomically-impacted communities ([Raimi + Associates, 2022](#)).
- Use efficient technology such as LED bulbs and schedule energy efficiency tune-ups of existing buildings and facilities. In addition, periodically evaluate the efficiency of potable and sewer pumping facilities and identify measures to improve pumping efficiency ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2021](#)).
- Expand nature-based and environmental justice programs to help support the developmental needs of youth, environmental conservation, and land protection ([Ardoin & Bowers, 2020](#)).

Housing

- Provide housing for those experiencing housing insecurity, homelessness, and transitional housing. Expand city funding and resources and invest in organizations working to support unsheltered communities ([City of Petaluma General Plan Update, 2023](#)).
- Pass a resolution to create a road map for the state “pro-housing designation.” This designation may create more opportunities for additional state grant funds for sustainable infrastructure ([California Department of Housing & Community Development, 2023](#)).
- Transform pre-existing shopping centers into a combination of housing and shopping buildings, creating multi-use properties ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Reduce restrictive zoning laws that continue to perpetuate racial segregation in Petaluma communities ([Othering and Belonging Institute, 2020](#)). Restrictive zoning laws and regulations are significantly correlated with economic segregation ([Lens & Monkkonen, 2016](#)).
- Allow a rapid expansion and development of Accessory Dwelling Units. It is important to streamline current processes as well as funding support for the development of these properties in Petaluma ([California Department of Housing & Community Development, 2023](#)).
- Look into Sonoma Unidos as a potential data sharing system for Petaluma’s social services programs to form a united data-sharing front to streamline processing clients and increase access and awareness of social services in the city.

- Increase accessibility to housing and shelter systems, access to transportation, and widespread behavioral health services for mental health and substance abuse for unhoused clients.

Transportation

- Expand the city's walkability and bike-ability. This would increase its tourism base, improve economic development, and help the city meet its 2030 carbon goals ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Ensure that pedestrian and bicycle safety from schools to nearby parks or adjacent afterschool programs is safe and welcoming for children to access amenities.

Economic

- Create “non-profit hubs” in Petaluma in main streets or neighborhood areas to share resources including financial and social capital with community members ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Expand community development and outreach efforts concerning future Petaluma City planning through the use of Asset-Based Community Development efforts to utilize the strengths of communities toward ongoing issues and areas of improvement.
- Develop mutual aid funds, harm reduction networks, and community-oriented resources for education, career assistance, and professional development. Mutual aid funds help to sustain and create community economic self-sufficiency and community building, giving both a shared purpose for community members and a gathering space to help community members support each other ([Carstensen, 2021](#)).

Education

- Increase opportunities for youth to become involved in the Petaluma River Park through internships, extracurricular and community programs, recreational activity centers, and summer camps.
- Provide opportunities for teens and young adults to discover and foster purpose development and positive youth development through civic and community engagement projects, including participating in: district board positions, community board positions, county program boards, nonprofit youth advisory boards and councils, and local electorate internships or civic positions ([Koshy, Mariano, 2012](#)).
- SEL implementations in schools should be more broadly funded and supported by the school system and the Petaluma community ([Corcoran et al. 2018](#)).

- Reduce suspensions and “zero-tolerance” policies in favor of mental health supports and school climate programs, and hold conversations on school safety and structural and institutional discrimination ([Mayer et al. 2021](#))
 - This means (a) actively discussing race and ethnicity amongst staff and students, (b) confronting implicit racial/ethnic bias amongst professional staff, (c) implementing culturally sensitive and trauma-informed educational practices, (d) increasing media/educational representation in educational materials and educational staff, and (e) abolishing educational tracking practices. ([Legette & Kurtz-Costes, 2020](#))

Health and Wellbeing

- Expand the farmers’ market at the Petaluma Fairgrounds to create a local, sustainable market for Petaluma community members in additional neighborhoods ([Imagine Petaluma’s Fairgrounds, 2023](#)).
- Create markets for groceries and other goods in deep “food desert” neighborhoods within walking distance from high-density housing communities ([Blue Zones, 2022](#))
- Create more opportunities for healthy eating and wellness, including working with schools on healthier nutrition programs; offering healthier alternatives and food options in grocery markets; and creating public transportation accessibility for groceries ([Blue Zones, 2022](#)).
- Create a resource network and therapy funds for uninsured and underinsured families unable to afford long-term mental health and behavioral health support ([Kern et al. 2017](#)).
- Expand school-based mental health services through the creation of new clinical traineeships, associateships, and internships in schools.
- Hire and retain mental health practitioners who are trauma and culturally responsive.
- Establish “safe-ride home” programs to prevent DUI incidents in Petaluma (Blue Zones 2023)
- Establish a coalition of community-based organizations and groups to address alcohol overconsumption and alcohol issues in Petaluma (Blue Zones 2023)

Art

- Collaborate with high-school-aged and elementary-school-aged youth on public art programs and murals across the city.
- Open up positions for youth involvement on Petaluma’s Recreation, Music, and Parks commission, and Public Art Commission.

- Offer additional creative opportunities for residents to explore nature along the Petaluma River.
- Use participatory arts engagements to allow community members to creatively express their desires and visions for the future of Petaluma.

Conclusion

This Community Health Needs Assessment sought to identify the key strengths, needs, and opportunities to address key needs. This is meant to be an ongoing and developing resource that will guide our efforts towards adequately and effectively addressing the communities needs from an asset-based perspective. We hope to imagine a park that serves and meets the unique needs and priorities of Petaluma communities, and through this document and our further explorations and inquiries, we hope to provide an assessment that fully encapsulates the ongoing needs of community members in Petaluma.

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