

## Survey Questions: Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District

Call to Action: Let us know what you want for the future of Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District

Survey Introduction: Last year, the Santa Clara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) commissioned a report—at the request of a few Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District (District) residents—to consider the District being dissolved and absorbed by the City of Cupertino (City). If the City were to absorb the District, this action would not impact property taxes on Cupertino homes within the District. More information can be found at [cupertino.org/ranchorinconada](http://cupertino.org/ranchorinconada).

The main distribution and outreach method to let the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District (RRRPD) residents know about the survey was hand delivering a letter to all 1,295 households within the RRRPD. This was done to keep the outreach to only RRRPD residents as best we could.

Alternatively, we created a webpage (<http://cupertino.org/ranchorinconada>) dedicated to the RRRPD project and an eNotification group with six subscribers. eNotifications were sent to this group about the opening and closing dates of the survey (March 7<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>). Survey respondents who opted into the eNotification group have not yet been added.

District Household Response Rate (1,295 Households in the District): 50 District Households (3.9%)

Responses from the Same Household - 11

1. Name (First and Last)  
Information Redacted – 79 Respondents
2. Address (Example: 10300 Torre Ave)  
Information Redacted
3. Is your household located within the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District (District) limits?
  - Yes – 65 (82%)
  - No – 10 (13%)
  - Not Sure – 4 (5%)Verified Response to Question 3:
  - Yes – 61 (77%)
  - No – 17 (22%)
  - NA – 1 (1%)
4. Where you aware of the Rancho Rinconada District's existence as a Special District within Santa Clara County?
  - Yes – 52 (66%)
  - No – 26 (33%)
  - NA – 1 (1%)

5. Do you currently use the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District facilities and services?
- Yes – 38 (48%)
  - No – 39 (49%)
  - NA – 2 (3%)
6. If you use the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District, when do you typically use it? (select all that apply)
- Year-Round – 24 (30%)
  - Winter - 0
  - Spring - 0
  - Summer – 22 (28%)
  - Fall - 0
7. How often did you use District's facilities within the past year?
- Regularly – 22 (28%)
  - Occasionally – 11 (14%)
  - Rarely – 15 (19%)
  - Never – 27 (34%)
  - NA – 4 (5%)
8. If you use the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District, what types of activities do you participate in? (select all that apply)
- Swim Lessons – 19 (24%)
  - Pre-competitive Swim Training - 3 (4%)
  - Youth Swim Team – 8 (10%)
  - Public Swim – 33 (42%)
  - Summer Camps – 7 (9%)
  - Facility Rentals – 19 (24%)
  - Other:
    - Barrington Bridge Community Board Meetings
    - Morning Lap Swim - 2
    - Meetings and social
    - Voting Location - 3
    - Basketball Court
    - Aqua Exercise (discontinued)
    - Yoga Class
9. If do not use the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District, what types of activities would you be interested in participating in? (select all that apply)
- Swim Lessons – 15 (19%)
  - Pre-competitive Swim Training – 9 (11%)
  - Youth Swim Team – 6 (8%)
  - Public Swim – 32 (41%)
  - Summer Camps – 10 (13%)
  - Event Rentals – 26 (33%)
  - Other:
    - Senior Programs - 3
    - Community Meeting Place

- Classes - 2
- Community Events
- Teen Programs

The Cupertino City Council is asking the Parks & Recreation Commission to consider the two options below as described in the special study.

10. **Option 1: Maintain RRRPD's Current Governance (Status Quo)** – RRRPD remains intact as an independent recreation and park district, and continues to be governed by an independent Board of Directors.

Do you have any concerns about Option 1?

Conflict of interest, lack of transparency and accountability
No concerns. I think the district is fine as it is.
Having a separate RRRPD board is a waste of resources and funds; maintenance of the property seems to have fallen off
No, we like this idea
Yes, Next Door had a lot of info about misappropriated funds...
Having reliable board members, non-biased and actually spend time getting to know the facility.
My concern is that the size of the special district, in terms of personnel needed to operate and govern and use of funds, is inefficient versus the benefits of merging into the bigger Cupertino organization.
Yes - the employees (lifeguards) said they were not being paid regularly. We wanted to rent the facility space for a birthday last year and were unable to due to poor management.
No. I prefer this option.
I see no reason why this special district exists and why it should not be absorbed. It is open to people outside our district; it also is not terribly economical; its finances do not have great transparency and seem too expensive; the board members aren't especially great governors; management of the pool is not very experienced; the swim lessons program contract seems to be run by friends or family members, increasing issues regarding transparency. I feel it belongs to the Cupertino or Santa Clara community and can benefit from the city or county's legal, compliance, financial, and pool management standards.
Maintenance and development of facilities and programs lacking due to ineffective leadership
No oversight with this option. Corruption among those in charge has run unabated over the last 20 years.
I worry about safety. People use the pool when it's closed and without a lifeguard. the pool right now isn't serving the community with programs the community asked for. Also, the administrative costs are rising.
does not function for community's benefit
Yes, it looks to me like the facility is currently use, for the most part, as the private play ground of those that run it.
YES
Bad option
Concerned about long term viability of district independence due to small size.
Yes. I am not happy about the way the funds are managed and the programs offered.

No, I like how things are managed now.
Poor governance; lack of transparency
Corruption, poor management, misuse of staff and facilities, used for personal use of few, cliques within management with preferred treatment to a selected few, hidden shady practices, meetings are corrupt, one sided, overall pulling wool over public and govt eyes
No- This option strongly preferred
No oversight by a specific agency of the Board/Management
I do not support option 1. (I am very concerned with the current Governance.)
Yes, too much effort and board does not really have time to do a good job.
Who overseas the budget aside from the BOD?
i like this idea

11. **Option 2: Merger of RRRPD with the City of Cupertino** – RRRPD would be dissolved and its functions, services, assets, and liabilities transferred to the City of Cupertino. The City would integrate RRRPD programs and facilities into current City operations and recreation planning. This option assumes that RRRPD's current property tax allocation would be transferred to the City, and that all RRRPD services would be maintained at current levels (or better).

Do you have any concerns about Option 2?

Seems MUCH better than what we have now
Yes, several. Currently a part of our property tax is used exclusively for RRRPD and receive discount at Rancho for it. We would not be willing to continue paying the tax if district merges with city as we will not be sure that our funds are used for RR district. Also, we live in the private community where RR facility is located. This will create a major safety and security issue, with city driving more people to this tiny facility. It will also create extra traffic, parking issues and nuisance to this private community. If city ends up taking over this facility, city would have to approve of this community becoming a gated community and be prepared of entry and exit only being from Bollinger Rd. Also, RR district has an agreement with the Barrington Bridge community since it was built regarding several factors including free facility usage for board meetings and neighborhood events. City would have to honor this agreement. I see no benefits at all in city taking over this district.
This would be acceptable over the current management
Yes
We dont like city take over, it always end ugly
Much better idea given the sketchy history
Cupertino
I believe the city would not have the pool be open year-round, which would effect summer staffing as year round employees would be less inclined to stay. Rancho's swim team quality of swimmers and training would also be neglected.
No, I support Option 2 to be implemented as soon as possible.
Yes the facility is already crowded with just special district members.
Cupertino

Yes. I do not want Cupertino to take the Special District as an asset. I do not want the one million dollars in assets transferred to the city or General Fund. If the city does this, I want the Special District to become a park site. That means that the buildings are taken down and the pool filled in and the land becomes a city park for Rancho Rinconada and the East side of Cupertino.
Yes, this would be a huge risk to the safety of our kids who play on the streets, due to increased traffic. As it is we have enough non-residents who use our streets as short-cuts and speed through them. If it is decided to transfer over to the city, then we should make our community a gated one to keep it separate from the center.
I think the existing structure works well.
No. this seems to be the best plan.
Cupertino
Cupertino
Yes. I don't know how the traffic would impact the Richonada community. Especially the security and the usage of the private roads.
Cupertino
Milpitas
Yes
We live in the community adjacent to the community center (Barrington Bridge). We are concerned about increased traffic and folks illegally parking in our community. We would like to know what the city plans to do to address this issue. We have a lot people parking in our community and there is no enforcement from the city.
Yes , I have concerns for the kids safety, increase in traffic as we use to lane across frequently.
Yes
Yes
This appears to be a scam aimed at putting property taxes paid by Ranch Riconada residents into the Cupertino general fund.
I assume this can be done with out my taxes going up.
I think the tax allocation should be reallocated not just to the city but could be use for other things like library, school, etc. Make the total tax amount that goes to the city comparable to other residents in Cupertino. Or if the residents pay more than they should get a substantial discount on the services at the pool.
Cupertino
we do NOT want RRRPD being dissolved and absorbed by the city of Cupertino. We would like to keep RRRPD as an independent recreation and park district since we want to keep the current service
No. I think this is the best move.
Yes, too much uncertainty with change since I like how things are managed now.
Currently, RRRPD residents are assessed a tax that other Cupertino residents are not, and are rewarded with reduced fees when using the facilities. If all Cupertino residents pay the same fees for usage, then all Cupertino residents should be assessed the same property tax. That's fair.
Best option
Yes. I do have concerns about Option 2.

Yes- strongly oppose option 2. Concerned with additional traffic and security issues. City needs to make Barrington bridge community gated if city takes over RR. Kids play in the streets- high risk with significantly increased traffic if it becomes city run. Major nuisance to residents. RR was private- thats why we decided to move to Barrington bridge. Cannot change terms of RR now. Residents will have to review legal options if this changes.
Employee salaries and benefits
I would like the swimming pool and other facilities to be kept open without interruption.
I support option 2.
No, but would like RRRPD to be upgraded and maintained well.
Always thought it was run by the City, so was surprised to see that it wasn't
How will it be assured that the tax allocation would only go to this property?
Yes

12. Based upon your knowledge of District and the governance options presented in the special study, would you prefer to see Option 1 or Option 2?

- Option 1 – 27 / 34%
- Option 2 – 51 / 65%
- NA – 1 / 1%

13. Please share any additional comments, your feedback is important to us.

Having read about the dissatisfaction of the board's actions on next-door.com, I hope that you adopt option 2 and bring back some sanity.
For years, we have not been told how our tax money was spent on that tiny facility. It is time to get it under the sun.
I strongly feel that this district is good the way it is. It does not need to be taken over by the city.
I believe the city could take better advantage of this recreation site.
We like Rancho independent
The place is chaotic. We visit other neighbor pools and avoid Rancho specifically. It would be nice to improve it.
Integrating the special district, which primarily is located within and serves Cupertino citizens and residents, into the city of Cupertino makes perfect sense. The district is a legacy of the previous Rancho Rinconado separate status within the county prior to the City of Cupertino annexing the area. It's time to merge this special district as well into the city.
Option one- keep things the same as they are now is the best course of action.
Combining it with city will add complexity in the management and may lose the dedicated focus and attention as of today
I'm very disappointed in the board members currently serving, the fallout and angry attacks they placed on outgoing board members who resigned for health & personal reasons - with that kind of behavior I see only burdensome overhead and inexperience in running this entity. I don't even think it's worth the expense to run an election for the board members. This entity should be run by the city.
I think RRRPD should be dissolved and its functions and services transferred to the City
Barrington Bridge community had a discounted access to the facility. I am concerned we will lose that and in addition. New traffic will go through the community and will adversely impact the security on the neighborhood. Will city take over the maintenance of the road/landscaping?

We live in the community adjacent to the community center (Barrington Bridge). We are concerned about increased traffic and folks illegally parking in our community. We would like to know what the city plans to do to address this issue. We have a lot people parking in our community and there is no enforcement from the city.
Leave our park alone
Do not change if you are 100 percent sure that you can do it better. Show proof that you can do it better. If option 2 is selected. Please make sure that you need to have proof showing that option 2 will serve local residents better than it's now.
Having City of Cupertino in charge will ensure efficiencies of scale are employed and proper oversight is exercised. We also will be much more aware of the facility unlike its almost invisible presence up until now.
more investigation needs to be done about the financials not matching up. Lafco studies said for years that there is overlap with the Cupertino Parks and Recs and the Rancho Special District. Let's consolidate and make this pool serve the community its been paying millions to for years.
would like more programs for senior activities senior swim water aerobics and more community activities for east side.
we are happy and satisfied with all the service that our current swim team support to us. Keep RRRPD independently is beneficial for all our residence
I think the city could run the facility in a fashion that will be of much greater benefit to the community.
having the RRRPD aborpsed by the city will just take away the RRRPD facilities which is only paid for by the RRRRPD households. Shame on the city trying to strong arm their way into this facility.
Rancho is a wonderful family swim center which serves the needs of the neighborhood well. Please keep it from changing!
Bring back the aqua excercise classes!
I enjoy the pool and would like to learn swimming there. It is a community asset.
It doesn't seem like a proper audit was done. Audit firm used was located in Sacramento, it wasn't even local.
a) The illegally run after school program and its subsequent closure, b) corruption allegations about the use of swimming pool - all points to one thing. The current management must go.
Important to improve pool facility as that is the main draw. Also, incorporate schedules into Recreation System for easier awareness building.
As a long time resident of Rancho, we love the idea of the RRRPD. Have not used it much since our kids have grown up, but feel it adds a lot to creating a community within our neighborhood.
we love this place!!!

14. Please provide your email if you would like to receive eNotification updates regarding this issue.  
Information Redacted