

Public Event Memo

Mike Kaputa, Chelan County

To Peshastin Community Council

Bill Goebel

From: SCJ Alliance

Date: January 30, 2024

Project: Peshastin Community Park

Subject Public Workshop

Introduction:

This memo is to summarize community engagement efforts and the results of public feedback for the Peshastin Mill site.

Community Workshop at Peshastin Memorial Hall

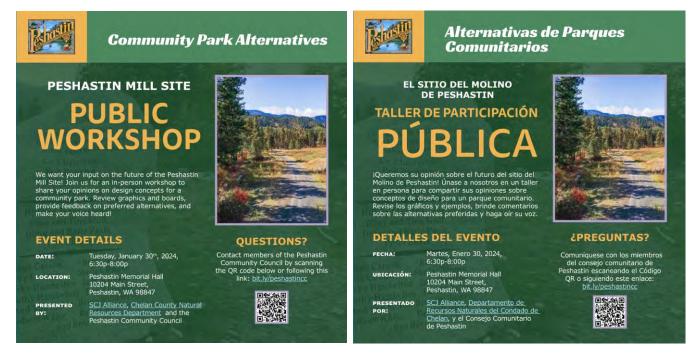
1 Event planning

1.1. Advertisement

Physical and social media flyers for the event were prepared by SCJ Alliance in both English and Spanish.

- Event was advertised on social media by Peshastin Community Council and the Chelan County Natural Resources Department
- ♦ Physical flyers were posted by Peshastin Community Council around Peshastin
- KPQ wrote two articles describing the project and the public workshop.





1.2. Event details

January 30, 2024, from 6:30-8:00 pm at Peshastin Memorial Hall

1.3. Attendance

31 people signed in at the event, including:

- Chelan County Staff Members and Chelan County Commissioner
- Peshastin Community Council
- SCJ Alliance project team

1.4. Event set up

The SCJ team provided snacks and water for people to enjoy as they walked around the room.

Upon entering, community members were provided with a signup sheet and asked to fill out a survey. Those are included at the end of this memo and summarized below.











Sign-in table, and examples of photo boards displayed at the workshop

Boards were set up around the room that provided context for the project and illustrated alternatives ranging from maintaining the existing site to a high impact traditional "park" space. Next to each site map were boards illustrating park features and amenities that participants could vote on.



1.5. Introduction

Steve Keene (Peshastin Community Council), Mike Kaputa (Chelan County Natural Resources), Brandon Mauseth (SCJ Alliance), and Caitlin Mehall (SCJ Alliance) introduced the project and provided a background for why this workshop was taking place. Mike clarified that this property is currently privately owned, and it is not known who would own a future park. The design team has been working alongside the current property owner (Bill Goebel) and Bill is in full support of Chelan County and the Peshastin Community Council working with the community to evaluate park concepts and alternatives to further consider locating park uses on his property. Bill was unable to attend the meeting, SCJ Alliance and Chelan County staff had a review meeting with Bill prior to the workshop to review the alternatives and agenda for the workshop. Bill and Chelan County discussed scenarios for the property and what that relationship would require, Bill is open to explore options from lease agreements to change of ownership. Mike also corrected misinformation that had been circulating online that several organizations outside of Chelan County had been involved in the project, such as, the National Park Service. Mike clarified the current stage of the project and that the community engagement stage we're currently completing and evaluating alternatives is our primary focus. As the project progresses there will be opportunities to engage other stakeholders, if needed or required.

A few community members asked questions about:

- Ownership of the shoreline and clarifying that is Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) property. A representative was present and discussed interest in following the project for understanding of impact and opportunities. WDFW described basic maintenance operations along the property, need for access and interest in coordination on parking lot improvements.
- Several community members expressed concern for improvements such as "Sports Fields". Generally, this was focused on environmental impacts (previous activities at the site and mitigation requirements), environmental (protecting animals and habitat) to the property, increased use and density (overcrowding), traffic impacts, types of organized events and if who that type of use would draw in, and if that's what the community really wanted. Caution was also raised as to whether the sports fields would be used. There was also concern if that type of use was compatible with other activities.
- A citizen referenced a planning document completed for the City of Leavenworth that included types of sports fields in the area and levels of use. Suggested looking into previous planning documents for information already completed.
- Several citizens asked about access to the Peshastin Community (existing or additional bridge). Citizens pointed out that there is only one access to Peshastin.
- ♦ A representative with Ski Winter Sports Club explained their involvement on the property grooming for winter trail maintenance (cross-county skiing), mountain biking, trail building and general maintenance and upkeep. They explained they volunteer their time to do this. They also provide a public porta-potty (temporary restroom) for the users of the property. They are interested in continuing to use the property to support outdoor activities for the community. They would like to stay involved in the process to further consider improvements to Mr. Goebel's property.



A citizen asked if Peshastin Council had been involved in the preliminary discussions and consideration of
if this was driven by 1 person. Peshastin Council confirmed they have been involved in preliminary
discussions and updates.

1.6. Community Feedback

1.6.1. Sticker boards

After the introduction and Q&A, attendees were encouraged to walk around the room and interact with the boards and place stickers on examples of uses and amenities that they would like to see at this location.

The photos below show the results of the sticker boards.

Passive/Medium Impact sticker board

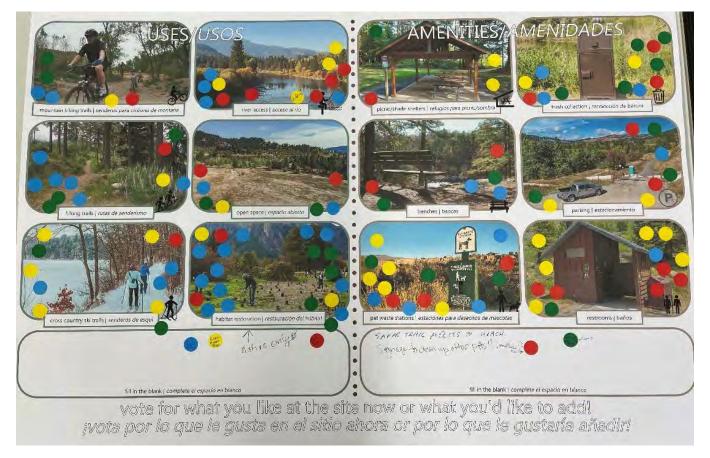


The fill-in-the-blank section had the following responses:

- Horse riding
- Free range dogs
- Pick up after dogs
- BBQ pit
- History of site [referring to the interpretive trail signs]



Existing/Low Impact sticker board



The fill-in-the-blank section had the following responses:

- Fishing [referring to river access]
- Native only [referring to habitat restoration]
- Free range dogs
- Horse riding
- BBQ pit
- Safer trail access to beach
- Signage to cleanup after pets!! (multiple!)
- History of site [referring to interpretive trail signs]



Active/High Impact sticker board



The fill-in-the-blank section had the following responses:

- Fields unnecessary
- Bird habitat around wetland
- Multimodal trail

In general, attendees gravitated toward the existing/low impact and the passive/medium impact boards.

Attendees had the following conversations with SCJ Alliance:

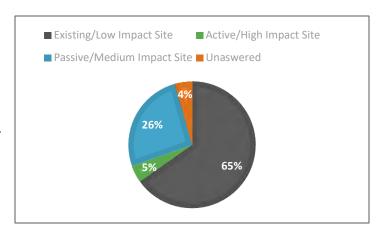
- Would like more detailed information about the environmental issues with the property related to past Mill Site activities. Buried wood debris at risk of contamination and combustion. There was also general concern about past industrial type activities and materials used.
- One citizen commented that they frequently ride horses on the property, asked to consider equestrian use.
- A lot of community members spoke about the desire to restore habitat and protect environmentally sensitive areas.



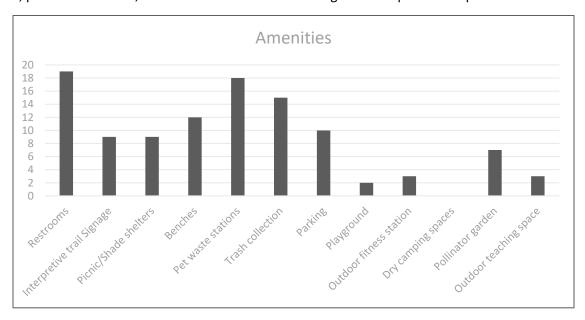
- A couple citizens commented on bird habitat along the river and wetland to support bird watching.
- A lot of citizens discussed both the desire to have areas to walk their dogs but also the need for dog owners to manage their pets. Liked the idea of trash cans and pet waste stations.
- One community member liked the idea of dry camping ability in this location but also recognized that could have negative impacts on the property and experience for others as a public space.

1.6.2. Survey Results

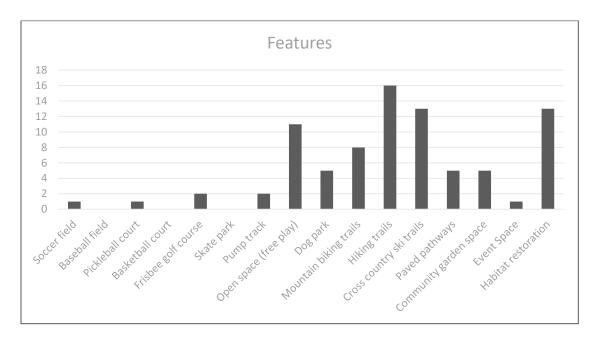
The survey gathered data from 23 completed responses, with one originating from the Hispanic community. Results indicate that the community favors maintaining an existing or low impact park at the Peshastin Mill site. Out of the 23 surveys, 15 expressed a preference for a low impact development, 6 for a medium impact development, 1 for a high impact development, and 1 response was left unanswered.



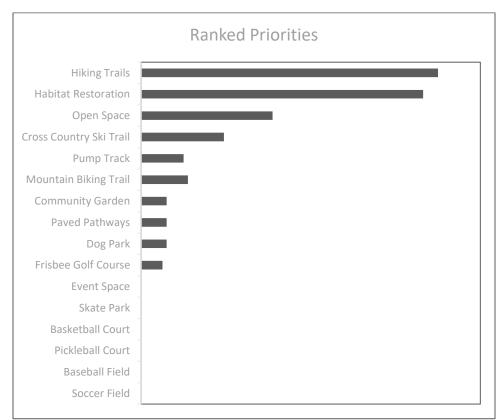
The community was also surveyed to determine their desired features and amenities for the site. The most favored features included hiking trails, habitat restoration, and cross-country ski trails. As for amenities, restrooms, pet waste stations, and trash collection were among the most preferred options.







Survey participants were asked to rank their preferred site features. A summary of the ranked features is below.

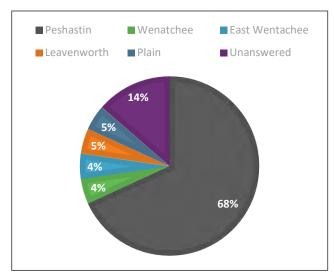




The survey results also provide insights into various aspects of the community's demographics and preferences which include the following:

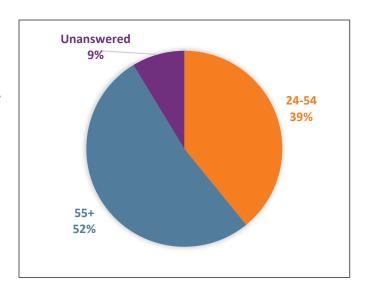
1.6.2.1. Residence

Among the respondents, 15 identified as Peshastin residents, while one respondent each hailed from Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, Leavenworth, and Plain. Three respondents did not provide an answer regarding their place of residence.



1.6.2.2. Age Groups

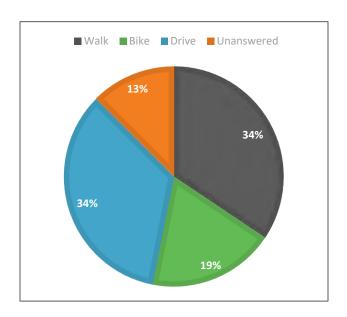
The majority of respondents, numbering twelve, fell within the age range of 55 or older. Meanwhile, nine respondents were aged 25-54 years, with two respondents leaving this question unanswered.





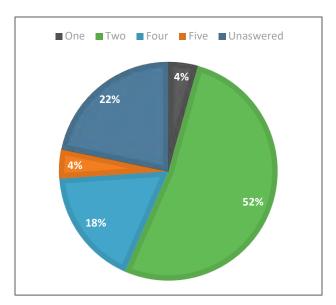
1.6.2.3. Site Access

Respondents indicated diverse means of accessing the site, with 11 respondents opting for walking, six for biking, and another 11 for driving. Four respondents did not specify their preferred mode of access.



1.6.2.4. Household Size

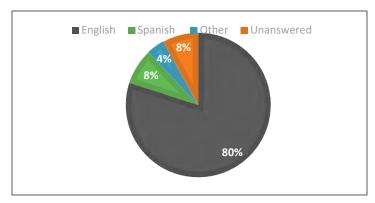
Most respondents reported a household size of two people, totaling 12 respondents. One-person households were reported by one respondent, while four-person and five-person households were reported by four and one respondents, respectively. Five respondents did not answer this question. '





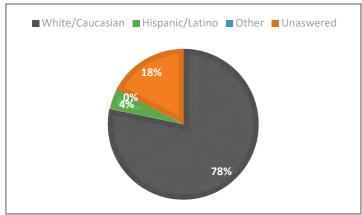
1.6.2.5. Primary Language

English was the primary language for the majority of respondents, with 20 indicating it as their language of choice. Two respondents preferred Spanish, while one respondent selected "Other." Two respondents did not provide an answer.



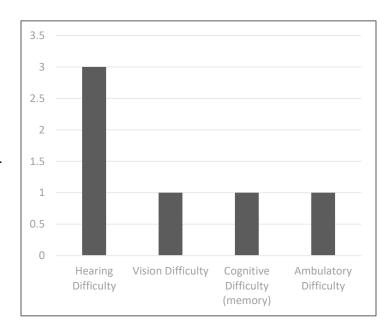
1.6.2.6. Race

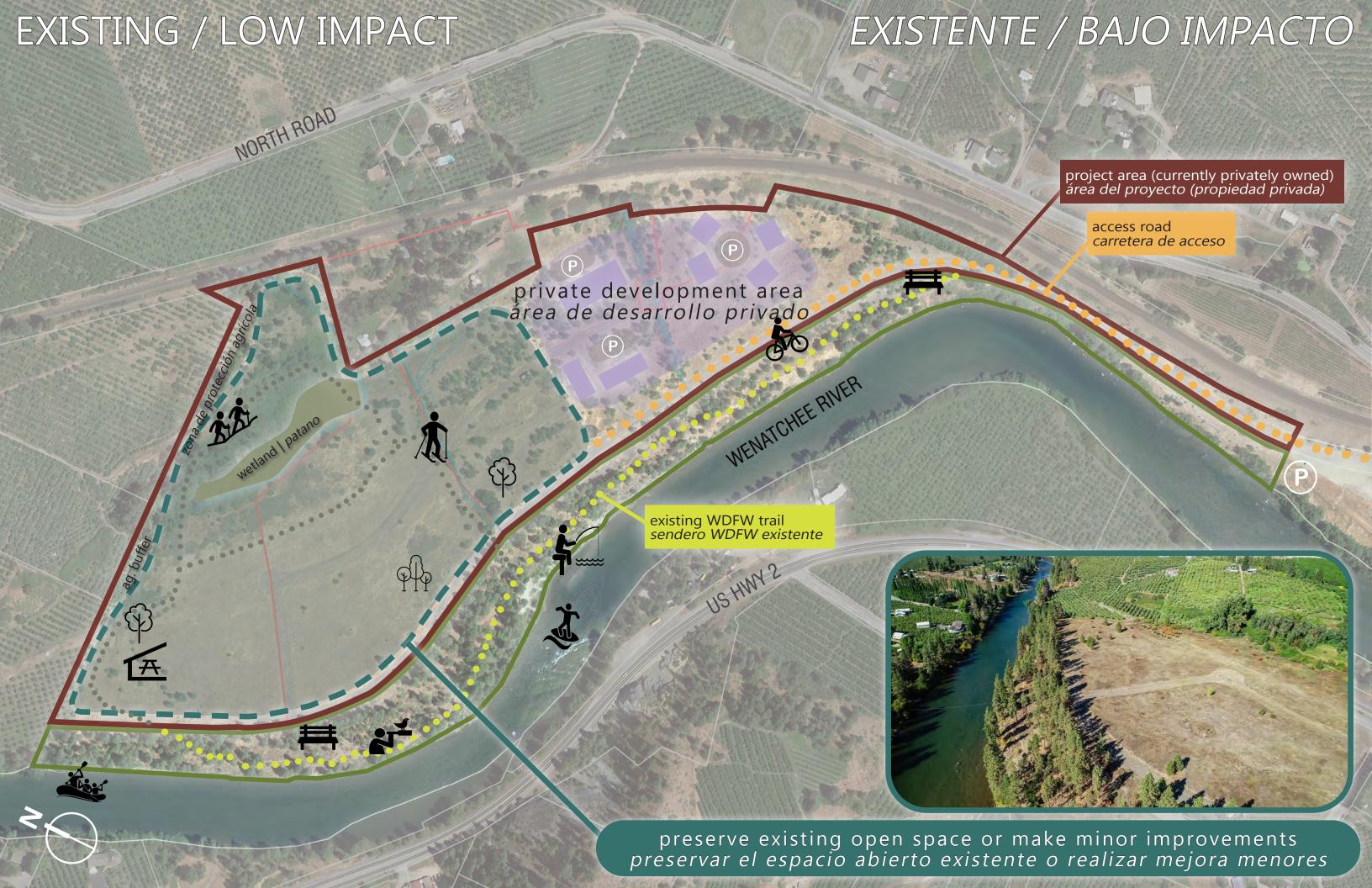
The data shows that 18 respondents identified as White/Caucasian, one as Hispanic/Latino, and none selected "Other" for race. Four respondents did not answer this question.

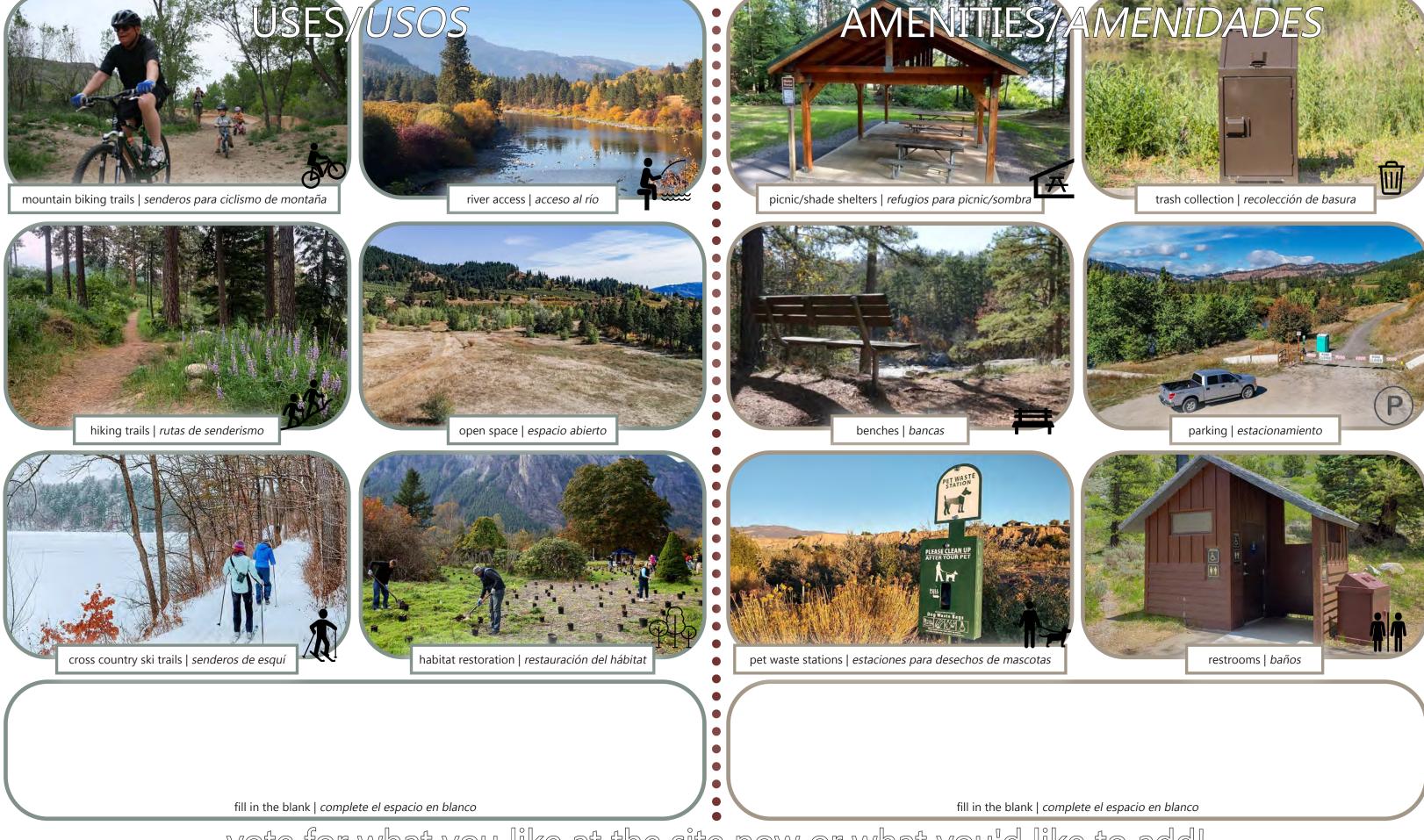


1.6.2.7. Disabilities

Regarding disabilities, respondents reported various challenges, with three indicating hearing difficulty, one vision difficulty, one cognitive difficulty (memory), and one ambulatory difficulty.







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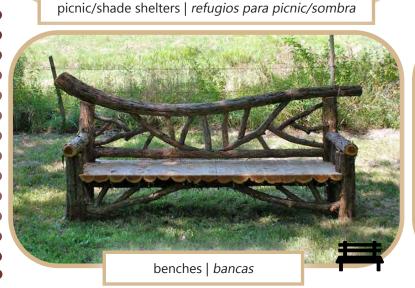




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