



Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project

Trail Advisory Group Meeting #1

March 13, 2013

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Trellis Hall, Citrus Heights

Trail Advisory Group Members Present

Organization
Area 4 Agency on Aging
Citrus Heights Collaborative
Neighborhood Watch
REACH Quadrant B (areas 6, 7, & 8)
REACH Quadrant C (areas 4 & 5)
REACH Quadrant D (areas 9, 10, & 11)
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
Sacramento Area Creeks Council
WALK Sacramento

Thirteen stakeholders and community members attended the first Trail Advisory Group Meeting for the Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project.

The goals for this meeting included:

- Introduce the project and the City's goals
- Discuss project purpose and approach
- Review schedule and input opportunities
- Introduce project study area and trail alignments
- Receive input on community values, concerns, and needs
- Provide background information on the trail
- Provide overview of the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholder
- Provide overview of the public engagement process

Project Overview

The City of Citrus Heights is undertaking a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a multi-use trail system within the City's 26 miles of creek corridors. The study will identify existing conditions, constraints, opportunities, alignment options, phasing options, and cost estimates for a multi-use trail available to bicyclists, walkers, joggers, wheelchair users, and other non-motorized uses.

Stakeholder Engagement Process

Gladys Cornell, Public Engagement Manager, AIM Consulting, provided an explanation of the public engagement program for this project. The Creek Corridor Trail Project includes a comprehensive public engagement process, which will involve six facilitated discussions and two site walks with the Trail Advisory Group (TAG) as well as community-wide meetings and an online survey. The TAG is not a decision-making body, but will provide important feedback and guidance throughout this feasibility study to assist the City and the project team in creating future trails that fit within the context of the

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community and serve the diverse needs of residents. The TAG is intended to include diverse representation of community-based organizations with interests related to the trail study. The objective of the TAG is to ensure that all potential views are represented and there is a balance of differing perspectives.

TAG representatives were asked to introduce themselves, their affiliation, and their interest in this study:

Organization	Interest
Area 4 Agency on Aging	Walkability and mobility for older adults
Neighborhood Watch	Creating safe neighborhoods
Sacramento Area Creeks Council	Protecting the natural feel of the creeks and creating access to the creeks for the community
REACH Quadrant D (Areas 9, 10, & 11)	Utilizing creeks for residents
Citrus Heights Collaborative	Providing access for adults with disabilities
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates	Creating more trails for cyclists in Citrus Heights
WALK Sacramento	Creating safe routes to school and a walkable community
REACH Quadrant C (Areas 4 & 5)	Safety for neighborhood walkers

Project Introduction

Casey Kempenaar, Project Manager, City of Citrus Heights, provided an overview of the City’s goals for this project as well as history about the initial creek corridor trail project, and how this project is funded.

The City’s Goals for this project include:

- Improve Mobility
 - Create new ways to get between local destinations
- Provide Connections to Complete Streets
 - Design Roadways for all users (Peds, Bikes, Cars)
- Become More Sustainable
 - Improved Air Quality
 - Reduction in Greenhouse Gases
 - Reduction in Traffic
- Improve Recreation Opportunities
- Enhance Natural Environment
 - Improve Water Quality
 - Reduce Flooding Risks
 - Improve access to natural features
- Improve Public Health

Following the discussion, stakeholder comments and questions included:

- *Question:* I understand that this study is a part of a 20-year plan for the City, but is there a timeline to construct the project?

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- *Response:* A construction date has not yet been identified. This feasibility study includes identifying potential funding sources, after which a timeline for future phases of the project may be developed.
- *Question:* What does the \$330,000 budget pay for?
 - *Response:* The total of \$330,000 for the project includes a \$292,000 grant from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments as well as a required local match of \$38,000 from the City. The total dollar amount may be used for this feasibility study only and cannot be used for any other purpose.

Project Overview

Kate Kirsh, Project Manager, Foothill Associates, provided an overview of the study's goals and purpose as well as the approach and schedule for completing the project. In addition, she provided a walkthrough of the creek corridors in the project area.

Project Goals include:

- Provide improved connections to key destinations for pedestrians and cyclists (schools, shopping, neighborhoods, parks and other trail networks)
- Improve access to the creek corridors for residents of all abilities
- Increase the number of recreational facilities to more neighborhoods
- Improve transportation choices in the City

Following the discussion, stakeholder comments and questions included:

- *Question:* What is a feasibility study?
 - *Response:* A feasibility study looks at what can be built where and how a trail network can function most effectively. For this study the project team will determine the areas within the City's 26 miles of creek corridors are suitable for trails.
- *Question:* The previously completed Arcade Creek Watershed study is no longer available on the City's website. Does it include information about Citrus Heights creeks and are there plans to update it?
 - *Response:* The City of Sacramento was the lead agency for preparing the Arcade Creek Watershed Plan that was done in 2003. The Plan does include some information about creeks in Citrus Heights, but it is focused on overall watershed conditions with some detailed recommendation for locations in the City of Sacramento. A subsequent Existing Conditions Environmental Assessment Report (ECAR 2007) provides recommendations for specific channel restoration opportunities, and does include more focused information on the main stems of Arcade and Cripple creeks in the City of Citrus Heights. A hard copy of both plans can be made available for stakeholders who are interested.
- *Question:* Which creeks are included in this feasibility study?
 - *Response:* Three major creek corridors are included: Arcade Creek, Cripple Creek, and Brooktree Creek.
- *Question:* Is there a SMUD easement along one of the creek corridors?
 - *Response:* Yes, there is one that extends from Arcade Creek at Fair Oaks Blvd. through Northwoods Park and C-Bar-C Park. Northwesterly to Kenneth Ave.
- *Question:* Does the project area extend beyond the City limits?

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- *Response:* Yes, parts of the project area extend into the County, and Orangevale.
- *Question:* Approximately how wide will the trail be?
 - *Response:* Trail standards for shared use paths call for an 8 foot paved path to accommodate all users. There is however some flexibility and the project team will evaluate what is appropriate for the space available.
- *Question:* Will the trail have stop signs? Yield signs are preferred by cyclists.
 - *Response:* Stop signs are not always necessary; however this phase of the project will not specifically identify that type of trail feature.
- *Question:* Will the system that we are creating for Citrus Heights extend into other communities?
 - *Response:* Yes, we are looking for opportunities to connect to other regional trail systems.

Community Values

The TAG was asked to identify their community values as it relates to this project. Stakeholders were provided the following three questions to respond to:

- What do you want to preserve?
- What do you want to create?
- What do you want to avoid?

Responses are included below:

What do you want to create?

Comment	Topic
A system that is user friendly for older adults	Accessibility
Rest areas	Amenities
Benches	Amenities
Restrooms	Amenities
Drinking fountains	Amenities
Opportunities for trail users to learn about the benefits of urban streams and practice good stewardship	Educational
Drains (to prevent trail flooding)	Environmental
A system that serves walkers, bikers, and those physically challenged	Multi-use
Dog walking, baby strolling, jogging	Multi-use
Recreation and access to a quiet place	Multi-use
Wide bike lanes	Multi-use
A safe and convenient network that can be used to meet daily transportation needs	Multi-use
Walking opportunities	Multi-use
Chances to encounter other trail users and say "Hi"	Multi-use
A system that can be used by bikes and walkers	Multi-use
Opportunities to reduce car trips for school, shopping, work	Multi-use
A useful and interesting series of trails	Multi-use
Safe for all users	Safety
A trail that gets away from auto traffic	Safety
Create something that can be sustained (maintenance, park rangers, patrolling, etc.)	Sustainable
Way finding to get to/from creek trails and destinations (schools, parks, shopping)	Way finding
Connections	Way finding

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What do you want to preserve?

Comment	Topic
Creek ecosystems	Environmental
Creek banks and natural corridors	Environmental
Flood protection	Environmental
The natural habitat! Save the trees and grasslands	Native habitat
Park areas and add to those by adding trails for walking , biking, etc.	Native habitat
Open spaces	Native habitat
Fauna	Native habitat
Wildlife	Native habitat
The natural beauty of the community	Native habitat
Trees (shade)	Native habitat
Environment	Native habitat
Native vegetation	Native habitat
The rural atmosphere present in many of the neighborhoods	Rural atmosphere
Safety	Safety

What do you want to avoid?

Comment	Topic
Areas that are not safe for wheelchairs (steep slopes, pot holes, etc.)	Accessibility
Steep hills	Accessibility
Concrete around/lining the Creek	Environmental
Impact on vegetation especially trees	Environmental
Harm to wildlife	Environmental
Overly built trails	Environmental
Bypass & destruction of private property	Environmental
Divisive outcome	Process
Stop signs	Safety
Ending a trail on a street without safe walking facilities	Safety
A system where people feel unsafe	Safety
Traffic as much as possible by placing trails away from streets	Safety
Traffic	Safety
A confusing system - inability to get from Point A to Point B	Way finding

At the conclusion of the exercise, stakeholders were asked to provide their thoughts and comments on the identified community values:

- These are great ideas with a common theme of creating a system that is safe, enjoyable to use, and does not destroy the environment.
- Glad to see that amenities such as restrooms were identified to make the trail user friendly.
- Way finding signage will be an important amenity to show the entire trail system.
- It will be important to connect the trail to the park system.
- We all want to preserve the natural unspoiled beauty of the creek corridors by creating a trail that is the right size for our community.
- Important to protect wildlife.
- We want to avoid a divisive process, do not want to have to choose between having a trail or protecting the natural habitat.

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Next Steps:

- Project information is available on the project website at www.chcreektrails.net
- Next TAG meeting:
Tuesday, April 30th
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Trellis Hall, Citrus Heights