

**Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting # 4**

Friday, April 28, 2006
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Santa Rosa Public Works Department
69 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
MSC-South, Conference Room 5

Outcomes

1. Understand the work plan process and product
2. Get TAC input
3. Potential for assistance from TAC on tasks, information sharing, gathering, etc.

Agenda

10:00 - 10:15	Welcome and introductions
10:15 - 10:25	Status report, review revised workplan
10:25 -- 10: 40	Tom Origer and Associates on the Cultural Resources study
10: 40 - 11:25	LandPeople and W-Trans on the Recreation, Access, and Transportation Component
11:25 - 11:30	Review next steps for TAC and time line

Facilitator: Sheri
Recorder: Peg

Citywide Creek Master Plan webpage:
<http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PagelId=1216>

MEETING NOTES

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Attendees were welcomed and introductions made. Attendees included:

Bill Cox (Department of Fish and Game)
Derek Acomb (Department of Fish and Game)
Janine Loyd (Tom Origer and Associates)
Alistair Bleifuss (Creek Stewardship Program)
Carol Vellutini (Sierra Club)
Joe Honton (Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation)
Nancy Dakin (Environmental Consultant)

Colleen Ferguson (City of Santa Rosa)
Sheri Emerson (City of Santa Rosa)
Denise Cadman (City of Santa Rosa)
Kenneth Tam (Sonoma County Regional Parks Department)
Steve Rabinowitsh (Santa Rosa City Council)
Martin Clinton (Santa Rosa Cycling Club)
Becky Frank (Caltrans Office of Transit and Community Planning)
Peg Henderson (National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Program)
Daniel Logan (National Marine Fisheries Service)
Stacy Burnett (LandPeople)
Randy Anderson (LandPeople)
Dennis Machado (Santa Rosa Junior College, Natural Resources Management)

Comments from attendees:

During self-introductions, attendees indicated their interest in the Citywide Creek Master Plan:

California Department of Fish and Game: Restore steelhead, and habitats that are fish and wildlife friendly.

Janine Loyd, Cultural Resources consultant: Interpretation and access to historic resources; interest in history of Santa Rosa

Alistair Bleifuss: People are concerned about better nature [values?] and more access for recreation and transportation.

Sierra Club: Water quality, connections, wildlife corridors, invasive plant removal, clean-ups, native plants.

Laguna Foundation: Emphasis on community—access, connectivity.

Nancy Dakin, EIR consultant: unifying features.

Colleen Ferguson: City's goals

Sonoma County Regional Parks: The connections to county.

Steve Rabinowitsh: Connections, important with density increasing; walking and biking off street; open space systems will be creeks; engage citizens.

Santa Rosa Cycling Club: Recreation and transportation, with a bias toward paved trails. Also creek and road crossings should go straight across.

Caltrans: Transportation element, there are many creeks into large neighborhoods and downtown areas; potential for off-street routes.

National Marine Fisheries Service: Health, function, organisms; also connection of humans and environment they live in, can see their effect on.

Land People: Interested in making seamless connections, overall system, details to make it work.

Santa Rosa Junior College Student: Interested in riparian, native plants, Laguna; huge potential for recreation, etc.

City of Santa Rosa Reclamation Farms: Connectivity between the watershed and the creeks.

Sheri Emerson: Useful, relevant, meeting multiple needs, that's the challenge.

STATUS REPORT

Sheri Emerson gave a project status report.

The Natural Resources report is in progress, the project team is developing recommendations for habitat preservation, enhancement, and restoration.

LandPeople has been hired, along with subconsultant W-Trans, to prepare the Recreation, Access, and Transportation component of the plan. Nancy Dakin has been hired under a separate contract to prepare the EIR document.

The project team is in discussions with a consultant to help with the Policy component of the Plan.

Peg Henderson has fulfilled the term of the technical assistance grant from the National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program. She has been integral to the success of the project. Sheri presented Peg with a letter of appreciation from Jeff Kolin, Santa Rosa City Manager, and a framed set of images from the Creek Dreams booklet.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Janine Loyd of Tom Origer and Associates presented a brief summary of the Cultural Resources study and findings.

Considering the project area to be a corridor approximately 300 feet in width along all creeks within the urban boundary, 18% of this area has been surveyed previously and 64 archeological sites have been identified. If the entire project area was to be surveyed, one would expect to find probably 150 more sites.

There are records of a family cemetery located off of Odell Lane, but the Miwok are not known to have used the area for burials.

Two sites along Santa Rosa Creek, near the remains of the Carrillo Adobe and the former Grace Brothers brewery site, offer excellent opportunities for interpretive displays. Along Paulin Creek there was once a potter's field, where tin cans full of concrete marked graves. Jeremy Nichols of the Rural Cemetery is working on a reconstruction of this.

Questions After Cultural Resources Presentation

Did you look at other creek greenways for examples of something to emulate?

--Carson City has a guided tour of the architecture on car radio. Example—Santa Rosa historic district, Railroad Square could use signage to pull in people.

Berkeley has signs embedded in sidewalks; good to let people know what was there.

--Would love to do something like that but prehistoric sites not a good place; would work to create public awareness to protect sites.

--Doyle Park site

Is it possible to pick “typical” site to interpret the use of such sites?

--Ethnobotanical interpretation

Was there a mission at the pueblo?

-Some documentation of an asistencia (an outlying post that priests from a nearby mission would visit to hold mass, weddings, funerals, etc. –P.H.) Need to research documents in Mexico.

Brush Creek name and Santa Rosa name?

--An Indian child was supposedly baptized at the asistencia named Rosa which led to the Santa Rosa name. Colloquial story, no way to verify. Possibly picked up by Carrillo and Vallejo families.

Will have information to allow us to do signage?

--Provided location and background information. Actual narratives were not in the scope of work.

Any activities that would or would not be an issue?

-Any dirt-moving would be a potential issue--weed pulling, tree planting. If trails are built up on a base, you can avoid the issue.

RECREATION, ACCESS, AND TRANSPORTATION

Randy Anderson introduced the consultant team (LandPeople, W-trans) and presented the team’s approach to this component of the project. The proposed work schedule would allow for completion of the Master Plan by the end of this year.

A memo was included as part of the presentation (attached).

Questions after presentation by LandPeople.

Who will notify adjacent land owners of process?

--Early workshops in neighborhoods

--“Creek Dreams”

--As plan becomes more site specific

--EIR process community scoping meeting

--schedule a scoping meeting after project description done, around mid to late June and another in about the fall.

Envisioning based on GIS layers to do a targeted mailing to property owners adjacent to areas.

How far into the process? Blank slate, or far enough along that you know of existing trails and looking at improvements?

--Due to nature of the system --with existing roads--we're inclined to use what's there-- more connections to existing; improve access; not so much new--but can also consider [other possibilities] if process identifies.

Two processes?

--1) Creek Master Plan

--2) Trail Master Plan -- may be on creek but connections may not be on creeks

--Big part is fish and wildlife habitat and areas where we want to do restoration and how this overlays with trail components.

--Based on established policies in city a starting point.

Waterways Committee--development projects create a dilemma of how to link trail segment? What's reasonable? Where to establish paths. Need to know priorities and potential linkages.

Level of specificity?

--For grants need project segments for paths or for CIP (Capital Improvement Program).

Land People: We are experienced at preparing grants, so we understand what needs to go into the document for future planners. Focus on priority areas to plan to a higher level of detail.

Importance of economic development of creeks--meetings on (SMART?) station-- people don't feel safe at night--but if there were more businesses there would be the potential of more use.

Very important--greenway system should relate positively to whatever land use is adjacent.

Continuing the discussion on how wide the creek should be?

--How far should buildings be? Some guidance on how to treat that interface?

Propose EIR Scoping meeting for June 21.

Issue of paving -- does plan call for areas of soft and hard surfaces; might want to look at more.

Per bicycle plans

Areas where you can provide for both.

Sonoma County Regional Parks -- 8 foot wide trail, then unpaved next to.

NEXT STEPS

Sheri Emerson briefly reviewed the workplan and project timeline. The next TAC meeting will be likely be held in June.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

MEMO:

To: Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan From: Randy Anderson, Principal
Technical Advisory Committee Members

Re: Recreation, Access, and Trails Date: 7/19/2006
Component

CC: Steve Weinberger, Josh Abrams, W-Trans

Greetings:

The consultant team:

We at LandPeople are thrilled to be on board for this important project! Information about our team members and the expected scope and schedule for our work is attached. We hope to work collaboratively with City staff and all the members of the TAC to make our services as efficient and on-target as possible to resolve the creek trail system.

Our phone and fax #s are below. Emails are all (first name)@landpeople.net.

Our traffic engineering subconsultant is W-Trans of Santa Rosa. Their phone is 542-9500
Principal Traffic Engineer Steve Weinberger is at sweinberger@w-trans.com
Associate Transportation Planner Josh Abrams is at jabrams@w-trans.com

We would be happy to hear from you at any time!

Current status and next steps:

We are currently collecting, organizing and absorbing a vast array of data so we can understand current conditions, projects, policies and guidelines. Next we'll document the general and specific opportunities and constraints, and develop trail improvement and management concepts. We'll review these with the TAC and the Waterway Advisory Committee, and then prepare phases, projects, priorities, and cost estimates, and ultimately document all in the report. Initial thoughts on formats for working documents:

Approach to the work:

Our understanding of the functions and priorities for the creek system is:

- Flood control
- Resource/habitat protection and enhancement
- Bicycle and pedestrian transportation
- Recreation (trails, open space and relationships to adjacent parks)
- Environmental education
- Aesthetics- visual open space, setting for creekside restaurants, etc.
- Generally to be an asset to any adjacent land use

We intend to build carefully on the prior work and create a process and product that will achieve a consensus of support, and a sense of ownership by all participants.

Our goal is to design so that resource protections and other mitigations are built-in. To this end we plan to coordinate closely with resource agencies and advocates and Nancy Dakin, who will prepare the EIR.



Tentative products:

We are beginning to form specific visions of the products to be created, and want to share our ideas with the TAC:

1. Tables with lists and brief descriptions of improvements needed/proposed on each creek trail reach, including on-road bypasses and connections between creeks. Tables would itemize and begin to quantify improvements such as:
 - paving
 - drainage
 - fencing
 - signage
 - entries
 - bollards
 - educational installations
 - benches
 - park facilities
 - habitat restoration
 - landscaping
 - Street crossing and route improvements (detail out)
2. GIS map(s) of reaches, corresponding to the tables, indicating planned/potential improvements by type (some of these may be quantified/assumed in table but not shown on maps). Needs to show, at least schematically, current improved creek reaches, other current projects and plans.
3. Typical layouts and details for design elements would be shown on sketches, example photos, descriptions, etc. Some of these would be derived from existing creek plans and guidelines.
4. Maps, tables, summary descriptions and details would be presented for initial review. This would incorporate and reflect opportunities and constraints, rather than entail a separate opportunities and constraints element. Based on comments these materials will be refined and more detailed products created.
5. List and description of policies, actions, arrangements, etc. that may pertain to each reach.
6. Cost estimate for improvements.
7. Identify projects/priorities.
8. Implementation strategies and steps:
 - Administrative actions.
 - Funding sources.
9. Design standards and guidelines – typical details (tie into EIR for pre-mitigation).
10. Operation and management guidelines (tie into EIR for pre-mitigation).