

OAK PARK BRANCH
Chollas Creek Canyon Enhancement Planning (CEP)



Workshop 2 Field Visit: Sunshine Beradinni
Ball Field to Euclid Ave.
September 28, 2013

PARTICIPANTS

Residents

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City

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Canyonlands

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This field visit started at the Sunshine Beradinni Ball Fields and toured Chollas Creek from there to the Euclid Ave. where it crosses the creek.

Notes:

1. **Eric Bowlby reported on conversations with the relevant City Planners.**
 - a. Michael Printz is the main planner for Mid City and has been cc'd on all correspondences. Michael had planned to attend but caught a cold. Michael mentioned that the "Chollas Triangle" project, (Chollas Parkway road vacation), is 11 acres total, 5 acres will be active recreation/useful space and 6 acres will be open space.
 - b. This Oak Park Branch shares a shoreline with S.E. San Diego and Lara Gates is the City planner working on the SESD Planning Area update. Lara supports our effort, sees no conflicts with other planning efforts, and will review materials to follow the CEP process. Lara told Andy Spurlock that it's important to focus on the impediments to a contiguous linear park, eg crossing Euclid Ave.. She also told Andy that another level of planning is required to implement the Chollas Creek Enhancement plan.
 - c. Jeff Harkness, a planner with Park and Recreation, mentioned that there is a Facilities Financing Plan (to collect Development Impact Fees) for capital improvements for community park uses in the area from Mima to Salta Place adjacent to the creek. Danielle confirmed that the Facilities Finance Plan calls for \$2 million for this project.

2. Located adjacent to the ball fields on the north side of the creek, there is a very healthy stand of Chollas cactus, potential habitat for the cactus wren. This should be conserved.
3. A manufactured slope and retaining wall at USF Reddaway was questioned. Was it permitted? See photos. Note: the wetland habitats below this slope are high quality.
4. Illegal grading near the northwest corner of the Fairmount bridge was discussed. (Shown on Google Earth View #4 and Photo #20).
5. The stakeholders recommended that filter inserts be installed at storm drain inlets.
6. A committee member suggested art work for the bottom underside of Fairmount Bridge.

7. Trail entry points and trail intersections should have way-finding signage. Entry points should have dog refuse bags and trash barrels.

8. (See corresponding photo #s and Google Earth View #4) Heading southwest from the southwest side of the Fairmount Ave. Bridge, there are two trail options (Options A and B).
 - a. Option A links the NW slope near the bridge up with the Sewer Access Road near the creek. A footbridge crossing the creek to the sewer access road should be considered (Shown on Google Earth View #4).
 - b. Option B provides a more direct route to the ball fields. Stakeholders saw advantages to both A & B, with Option A linking to the utility maintenance road on the north side and the south side of the creek (with a new footbridge). The sewer access road links the south and north sides of the bridge. Option B provides a more direct route to the ball field.

9. **Stakeholders discussions just on the northeast side of the Fairmount bridge:**
 - a. The one acre property that's for sale on the corner of 47th Street and Fairmount, with very steep slopes and wetlands at the bottom, severe environmental constraints should be purchased by the City. Intersection makes a good "gateway" into the Chollas Creek Park. The property should be purchased for conservation and would make a good mitigation site. The habitat is in fair shape with some opportunities for enhancement and wetlands expansion. They discussed an option for a footbridge that would cross the creek where there had been a road before years ago. The path would start at the city gate at the intersection of 47th St. and Chollas Parkway and link to a possible gas-line access road that climbs the hill to the northwest side of the Fairmount bridge. (Shown on Google Earth View #4).

10. The intersection of the Perkon Court cal-d-sac was identified as another good entry point to the trail system. Laurel St. is immediately across Euclid Ave. at this point. At this location invasive, non-native plants (acacia, arundo and pampas grass) were identified as a problematic.
 - a. Paleontological resources have been found on the north side of the creek near this location, (Photo 18).

11. At the footbridge crossing (A-139 Chollas Parkway) channel improvements upstream and downstream were discussed. A willow tree has grown through the cement at the intersection of a tributary to Chollas Creek at this location.

12. A giant Lemonade berry tree provides good shade along this path.
13. Unsightly fencing and precarious drainage lines were photographed on the north side of the creek.
14. Along the trail heading northeast toward Euclid, the trail is very close to homes. The Right of Way should be surveyed and identified for the length of the trail.
 - a. Encroachments by private property owners is possible along here.
 - b. Ornamental and fruit trees appear to be planted in Open Space areas.
 - c. Brush management "Zone 2" is very narrow with the creek and the wetlands nearby. This may warrant some special fire safety solutions e.g. Lemonade berry, focused BMPs in Zone 1.
15. At the Euclid bridge the stakeholders discussed a special crossing to link across the road to the trail that leads to Salta Place and 54th Street. A flashing light and a crosswalk for example, and traffic calming measures were discussed.
 - a. See Euclid area infrastructure photos #21 (1&2)