

Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan

- **Grant Recipient:** Santa Rosa Public Works Department
- **County:** Sonoma County

Project Area - Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Project Focus - Located approximately 50 miles north of San Francisco, the City of Santa Rosa (City) is the seat of Sonoma County. The City is proposing to prepare a Citywide Creek Master Plan (Plan). The multi-component Plan project includes Recreation, Access, and Transportation components. Water quality-related creek restoration funds from the Storm Water Utility were used to complete additional components of the Plan.

Project Goals – The City sought ways to address one of the community's highest concerns: Ever increasing traffic congestion. With a healthy jobs/housing balance and a relatively short average commute to work, citizens are in need of a range of transportation alternatives to get them out of their cars. The development of the Plan allowed the City to be proactive in planning for the transportation opportunities available along its creek and waterway corridors. In response to severe flooding during the 1950's and 1960's, 35 miles of creeks within the study area were canalized. A by-product of canalization was the creation of access roads for maintenance vehicles next to the flood control channels. The proposed project created a plan to use these access roads, which represented a unique opportunity to serve as transportation corridors: They are

interspersed throughout the community's development pattern and provide access to residences, schools, civic destinations, shopping, and employment centers. These facilities serve as the foundation for connecting a greenway system, forming a network of Class I paths throughout the community, minimizing interactions with motor vehicle traffic, and thus minimizing the potential for vehicle conflicts.

Community Outreach – The outreach activities funded by the CBTP Grant included: (1) The creation of a project website; (2) technical advisory committee meetings; (3) creation of approximately 60 base maps showing potential trails and amenities that were used for TAC and public review; and (4) conduct of a public workshop on August 16, 2006, at which time input was gathered on recreation, access, and transportation components of the Plan.

Project Outcome- The Plan presents a set of creek-related policies and recommendations for site-specific improvements to the nearly 90 miles of creeks that flow through Santa Rosa. The Plan embraces the concept that waterways are important for multiple uses: Drainage and flood control; fish and wildlife habitat; recreational and educational opportunities; and transportation routes.

Planning Goals Realized –

The plan was completed, and the City Council certified the Final Environmental Impact Report on March 27, 2007.
<http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/departments/publicworks/stormwatercreeks/creeks/Pages/creekplan.aspx>