



Park to Playa Trail Feasibility Study

Public Workshop #1 Summarized Input

January 25, 2011 – 7pm-9pm

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Community Meeting Room

Project Funded By: Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority

On January 25th, 2011 over 40 people attended the first Park to Playa (P2P) public workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to introduce the project, highlight existing conditions along the route and gather input regarding trail use, preferred routes, desired amenities and improvements.

The workshop began with a presentation by Randy Anderson and Emily Duchon of Alta Planning + Design. They presented an overview of the current feasibility study scope and then guided participants through a virtual tour of the P2P study corridor using images from Google Earth .. In the second part of the workshop participants broke out into four groups each with a set of detailed maps. Participants were encouraged to provide input on trail use, connections to park, trails and community destinations, and features/amenities such as wayfinding elements, landscape, benches, etc).

The following is a summarized list of the input provided by workshop participants.

Trail /Park Use

- Shared use
 - Trail needs to be multi-use (bikes, hikers)
 - Make majority of off pavement paths and trails open to bicycles
- Separation of use
 - There should be a separation of users – bike trails separate from walking trails (commuter bikes remain on streets with bike paths/lanes/routes)
 - Long-Term P2P Trail goal should be to create greenway with separate trail
 - Have an alternate paved bike route between major P2P destinations (might require walking sections)
 - May need to be a future linkage – yes commuters think it's a good idea – an opportunity for a national precedent
 - No bicycles on walking trails
 - Culver City Park path is a good model for P2P
 - Separate route for bikes and connection to McManus Park/Baldwin Hills Recreation Center
- Trail surface of compacted earth or D.G. is ok but need to be properly designed, maintained

- Where erosion is occurring need physical barriers and signs to deter unauthorized use – proliferation of trails
- New Park Uses
 - Terrain park for cyclists (pump track)
 - Dog park
 - No golf courses
- Prior to opening of privately owned properties begin studies on contaminants
 - Protecting health of users is a priority
 - Post warning signs of hazardous toxins
- Scenic Overlook is used by nature lovers and fitness buffs but, there is no promotion of understanding of one group by the others – (short cuts – other impacts). Cross- education is needed
- Need signs with reasons for rules
- Do not want trails to intrude into people’s backyards, visually-screening
- Interest in what entities and process for access across private property (Community Standards District Issue)

Trail Amenities

- Interpretive Media & Programs
 - Use interpretive signs to promote nature and fitness
 - Interpretive signs are important because they help to educate users and build appreciation. (What happened to all the rabbits that used to live in Hahn Park? Hawks?)
 - Informational plaques of native vegetation, birds, animals and history
 - Educational signs about site history and the Tongva. Recognize original natives of the area.
 - More demonstration gardens with interpretive signs
 - Calendar / bulletin / website with information on when things are in bloom, (i.e. lotus, coral trees), when fish have been planted, etc.
 - Art workshops, drawing workshops, art residencies related to nature
- Landscape design
 - Watershed protection in landscaping design (bioswales, rain gardens)
 - Plant native plants
 - Protected wilderness installments- no trespassing in these areas
 - Fences to protect habitat and keep users on trails
 - Prickly pear cactus, Live oak, Sycamore, Deer grass, buckthorn, herbal plants, sage, sunflower
- Trail waysides
 - Shaded rest areas with benches
 - Shade trees if compatible with native habitat, if not, shade structures with benches
 - Rest stops with water fountains
 - Wildlife and bird viewing areas (gophers, cactus, wren) with benches
 - Provide scenic areas for relaxation. Ponds, waterfalls
 - Vendors at beginning and end of park

- Outdoor exercise equipment along trail
- Sun bathing areas
- Provide for emergency services
 - Trail Rangers, possibilities for volunteer trail docents or youth rangers
 - Specific help line for P2P
 - First aid stations or kits at kiosks (may get stolen)
 - Call boxes along trail corridor for emergency phone use. Cell phone reception is limited in areas of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA)
- Trail facilities
 - Consolidate basic amenities in strategic areas – keep overall rustic
 - Will need additional facilities (restrooms) with increased use of trail. Find a balance to prevent impacts to wildlife with the development of restrooms
 - Trash bins (trash / recycling) at picnic areas. Limit use along trail corridor to prevent wildlife from accessing trash bin.
 - More trash cans (rustic looking)
 - Dog disposal bags throughout trail
- Bike parking and access
 - More bike parking
 - Bike parking in KHSRA at the lake, visitor’s center and bowl loop)

Wayfinding

- Wayfinding Signs
 - Trail signage needs to be updated
 - Wayfinding signs at trail entrances and intersections with other trails
 - Unified mileage signage, coordinate with Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to make similar to Ballona Creek Bike Path
 - Include distance information on signs that inform how many miles users have walked/rode and number of miles to the next destination (i.e. “5 miles to beach”)
 - Signs are needed to direct people to P2P trail from surrounding destinations including Expo line stops
 - Big / urban style wayfinding signs that reinforce “you are here” along trail.
 - Site specific design. Could be designed by artists or a competition
- Maps
 - Post a P2P map at all entrances (Stocker, Ballona Trail and in KHSRA)
 - Kiosks at entry points to P2P
- Regulation Signs
 - Need to educate bicyclists to yield / ride single file on paths. Work through existing groups, also need signs (ride/walk single file).
 - Warning signs “steep slope” and “protected habitat/wildlife area”
 - There is poor signage regarding park hours
 - Use markers to keep people on trails and guide the way (defensive plantings of cactus, stakes with ribbon)
- Online Wayfinding
 - Provide extensive online resources, maps
 - P2P geo-cache activity

Access Improvements

- Difficult to ride a bike from the east. Increase bike lanes and bike accessibility
- Connection from west to KHSRA highly desired
- More pedestrian/bike friendly access to KHSRA and P2P
- A walking path from KHSRA to Blair Hills Park
- Strong Expo Line connectivity to P2P

- Jefferson Boulevard Improvements
 - Hazards for pedestrians accessing Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook (BHSO) – traffic
 - Need a pedestrian crosswalk and crossing signal at Hetzler Rd and Jefferson
 - Bike/ pedestrian bridge from BHSO to Ballona Creek Path
 - Warning sign before BHSO entrance to tell drivers to “slow down” and sign that says “BHSO next right”
 - Walking path needed on south side of Jefferson Blvd from Rodeo to BHSO
 - Stripe bike lane on Jefferson Blvd
 - Separated bike lanes on Jefferson Blvd. Suggested bike lane with 5’ plastic sticks embedded every 12’ into pavement to separate cars and bikes
- La Cienega Boulevard Improvements
 - Trail from La Cienega / Slauson to KHSRA
 - Nice wide path to get over La Cienega, can it be landscaped? Can it be safe?
 - Continuous sidewalk needed along the west side of La Cienega from Rodeo Rd to existing KHSRA entrance bridge
 - Bike/pedestrian/wildlife bridge over La Cienega connecting KHSRA and BHRCA property
 - Walking path needed from Slauson to KHSRA entrance (both / either side)
 - Crosswalk needed on La Cienega Blvd at Aladdin St
 - “Café La Cienega” – proposing the idea for a café/bistro near residences, Blair Hills and be accessible to surrounding parks
- La Brea Avenue Improvements
 - City of Los Angeles to build a guard rail along west side of La Brea Ave from existing sidewalk south to KHSRA La Brea loop access.
 - “Bistro La Brea” – proposing the idea for a café/bistro north of five points, adjacent to parking lot

Ballona Creek Path

- Add benches or rest stops along Ballona Creek path
- “Bike jacking” issue on Ballona Creek path has gone away
- Pedestrians on Ballona Creek pathway are constrained. It is very narrow and pedestrians must go single file while bikes go fast two- abreast

Culver City Park

- Improve trail through Culver City Park, reduce sharp curves

- Provide a bike trail through Culver City Park to Jefferson
- Restore nature area signs in Culver City park (they tend to become graffiti magnets – need anti-graffiti technology)

Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook (BHSO)

- Better trail connection from end of switchback trails on NE slope of BHSO to the DG path connection to Culver City park
- Bike path connection from BHSO upper parking lot along Hetzler Rd to Culver City Park
- Plant native cactus to prevent people from creating short cuts along trail switchbacks
- Like rustic uneven stairs at Overlook but don't like erosion
- Funicular connection east side of BHSO
- Biogas Generation Plant / Drop off for green waste at Bowcross St.
- Parking in triangle parcel between Hetzler and Jefferson
- Jefferson Blvd at Hetzler Rd is dangerous with traffic traveling high speeds (40-50 mph).
 - Add signal with crosswalk.
 - Flashing LED light embedded in the pavement for the crosswalk
 - Warning / caution red light for cars to slow down

Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority Property (BHRCA)

- Add a “native trail/wild trail” for passive recreation
- Restore to coastal sage habitat
- Make connection to Blair Hills Park
- Buy chevron property
- Install emergency call boxes along this segment
- Minimize slopes greater than 15% with switchbacks

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA)

- Retain KHSRA natural rugged quality
- Create visual buffer to oil fields
- Thick border trees all around KHSRA to block out sights and sounds of city life
- Use utility corridor to connect north to MidCity
- Keep La Brea entrance free (no \$) at all times
- Better maintenance of gopher holes
- Contact Ron Webster- who put in most of the trails in KHSRA from Sierra Club trail blasters
- Cover asphalt path around the Bowl Loop with DG (dirt)
- Japanese Garden to Olympic Forest
 - Trail is not accessible to seniors with bad knees because of the stairway, Remove segment with steps and realign trail for full accessibility
 - Japanese park in KHSRA should be removed – should have maintained as rustic
 - Olympic forest neglected – restore and add signs
 - Build dog park east of Japanese Garden area
 - New trail connection along picnic area to Japanese Garden
- Western Ridge Line

- Remove wide service road
 - Good views toward downtown
- La Brea Loop/Eastern Ridge Line
 - Install timed lights in morning
 - Planned new trail, “Sierra Club Trail”
 - Add benches in the loop trail
 - Along La Brea, put in thick trees to block out view and smell of traffic on La Brea

Five points Intersection:

- MAJOR connection area
- Connect to little league fields on Fairfax Avenue
- Wooden foot bridges across all five crossings
- Park gates at 5 point intersection to mark entrance
- Bistro on Baldwin Stocker LLC property

Stocker Corridor

- Parking should be allowed at Stocker and Overhill Drive at Stocker trailhead
- Natural/native shading along trail or canopy
- Connect to Ruben Ingold Park